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LD1508134288 [Editorial Report]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat "is expected" to proclaim an "independent Palestinian state" at a meeting in "mid-September," MENA announced. The "initiative" will be based on United Nations Resolution 181, according to Dubayy's AL-BAYAN. PLO Executive Committee member Salah Khalaf called for discussions with Israel to "determine the frontiers and mutual recognition" between Israel and Palestine, KUNA disclosed.

In an interview with a French newspaper, Khalaf said he was prepared to hold direct talks with the Israelis, KUNA added. The Palestine National Council will meet 20 September to discuss the new government, which will be "completely different from the current PLO national charter," he stated.

Jordan's King Husayn met with a Palestinian delegation 13 August to discuss administration of the occupied territories, Amman radio reported. He explained Jordan's "pan-Arab motives and considerations" behind its move in the territories. In a statement after the talks a Palestinian spokesman said they agreed Jordan will continue to provide facilities in the territories, AL-RA'Y reported.

A Palestinian delegation member said Jordan would continue to issue passports to residents of the territories but they would remain "separate from the question of nationality," MENA disclosed. A Jordanian spokesman said the Palestinians expressed "complete relief" at Jordan's decision, Amman television noted. For its part, Jordan welcomed the "principle of consultations" on any PLO "step or decision," the spokesman said.

"U.S. intransigence" in rejecting two members of a PLO delegation that was to meet with envoy Richard Murphy led to the meeting's cancellation, according to a Palestinian cited by MENA. The U.S. rejection of two PLO members "aborted" Egypt's efforts to arrange the meeting, the source disclosed.

Israel

Political Moves—Responding to Salah Khalaf's statement on negotiations with the PLO, Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, said Israeli policy is not determined by the PLO, Jerusalem radio reported. He called Khalaf's statement "verbal trickery."

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will propose a peace plan including the PLO but "without the active participation" of King Husayn, HADASHOT revealed. The Mubarak plan includes "elements" from the Camp David Accords and the "Reagan Middle East plan," the paper added.

Prime Minister Shamir is "ready in principle" to meet with Mubarak and a Palestinian delegation, HADASHOT disclosed, but sources in Shamir's office said Israel will reject the plan if it includes "either active or covert PLO participation."

An offer by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to pay the salaries of civil servants in the West Bank is "ridiculous," according to a spokesman from the Prime Minister's Office cited by DAVAR. The spokesman said the offer was "not serious" and would be impossible to implement, the paper added.

The 12 August edition of THE JERUSALEM POST published the text of an "independence document," written by "Palestinian leaders in the territories" and calling for the establishment of an independent state within the 1947 partition boundaries. The document detailed the nature of the "new state," to be led by PLO Chairman 'Arafat and the Palestine National Council.

The state will confirm a policy of nonaggression and that Palestinians "do not desire" the "annihilation of Israel" and wish to live "peacefully as its neighbor," the document declared. The "declaration of independence" outlined "does not necessarily mean" the formation of a government-in-exile, the document added.

Occupied Territories—A "full curfew" was imposed on the Gaza Strip 14 August after violent disturbances throughout the area, Jerusalem radio and television announced. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin called the move the "first in a series of measures" that will "yet be taken in other areas as well" to "lower the level of violence" and prevent the PLO from "infiltrating certain bodies" to fill a "limited vacuum" left by Jordan, the radio added.

A Rafah resident was killed and 20 others injured by gunfire during the disturbances, the radio noted. IDF soldiers dispersed rioters with rubber bullets and tear gas and "managed to restore order," the radio said. Seven Israeli settlers were injured near the Al-Burayj refugee camp when a firebomb was thrown at their car, the radio added.

Other weekend incidents were reported in Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Hebron, according to Jerusalem television. A Rafah resident was killed by IDF gunfire during a "violent riot" 13 August, Jerusalem radio reported. A youth was killed 13 August in "prolonged disturbances" at the Janin refugee camp and another died 15 August of wounds sustained during a riot at the Tulkarm refugee camp, the radio disclosed.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

UN Delegations—The two UN delegations sent to prepare for the implementation of the cease-fire agreement will have two separate headquarters in Tehran and Baghdad, Tehran radio announced.

Diplomacy—Iran has received "guarantees" from the UN that Resolution 598 "would be implemented in full," Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri told AFP. Speaking in Algiers, Mo'ayeri said the guarantee includes the clause stipulating the formation of a committee to name the aggressor in the war and to provide compensation for damages.

Mo'ayeri met with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to discuss regional issues and bilateral relations, Algiers radio reported.

Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri met the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs to discuss bilateral relations and their "Islamic personality," Tehran radio noted.

Saddam Husayn's Remarks—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn called on Iraqi citizens to "exert more efforts" to rebuild after a "psychological" rest brought about by the cease-fire, INA reported.

Iran

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad reconfirmed Syria's support for Iran in a 14 August meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, IRNA reported. Velayati delivered a message to Al-Asad from the Iranian president and conferred with his Syrian counterpart on regional developments, according to IRNA.

During his 1-day visit to Damascus, Velayati also met with Lebanese Shi'ite official Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, Amal leader Nabih Birri, and Hizballah official Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, Beirut radio revealed, adding that Al-Tufayli denied the issue of foreign hostages in Lebanon had been discussed.

At the same time, KUNA noted, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani is meeting with Hizballah leaders in Beirut where "intensive contacts" are underway with Damascus on means of releasing foreign hostages. FRG hostage Rudolf Cordes has urged his government to release Mohamed Hamadah, who is on trial in the FRG, DPA disclosed.

Lebanon

Elections—The Chamber of Deputies Staff Office set 18 August as the date for presidential elections, Voice of Lebanon reported. The clandestine Voice of the Mountain cited an AFP interview by Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt, who asserted that the election of a military candidate would amount to a "declaration of war."

Junblatt said that the election of Army Commander Michel 'Awn would weaken Syria's role in Lebanon. Meanwhile, according to Voice of National Resistance, Army commandos "smashed" AL-MASIRAH offices 13 August, following the magazine's publication of a "violent attack" against General 'Awn.

Security—The Beirut Martyrs Battalion claimed responsibility for a 14 August explosion in a Syrian intelligence service office in West Beirut, clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. The radio further reported that the Khalil 'Akkawi Forces of the 9 February organization claimed responsibility for firing a rocket at a Syrian intelligence post in Al-Minya 12 August.

Amal-Hizballah clashes 12 August in the southern suburb of Beirut left 1 dead and 16 others wounded, including a Syrian soldier, according to Voice of Lebanon. Hizballah accused the Amal Movement of killing a Hizballah member in an attack on his car at an Amal checkpoint in Bi'r al-Sanasil 13 August, Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Israeli Attack—The government submitted a complaint to the UN Security Council over the 9 August Israeli air attacks east of Sidon, Beirut radio noted.

Egypt

The public prosecutor ordered 92 "Muslim fundamentalists" detained after 2 people were killed and 50 injured in riots in Cairo 12 and 13 August, AFP reported. According to MENA, members of the Al-Jihad organization hurled stones and Molotov cocktails from the top of wall surrounding Adam Mosque 12 August as police attempted to arrest some of the group's leaders.

The following morning demonstrators led by some Al-Jihad members set fire to three unoccupied police cars, MENA added. Several of the protesters were injured and one was killed in the ensuing clash with security forces, MENA reported.

Sudan

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi inspected areas of Khartoum affected by the floods, SUNA reported. According to the agency, 83,000 houses have been

destroyed and some 40 people have died in the floods, which swept through Khartoum and neighboring areas. The central region was added to the list of disaster zones 12 August, SUNA reported.

Afghanistan

President Najibullah announced that government forces have retaken Konduz, which had fallen to the rebels 10 August, AFP reported. According to Islamabad radio, the mujahidin "captured a strategic post" in Konarha Province. Rebels killed 13 in missile attacks on Gardeyz, according to Kabul radio. Rebels also continued to shell Kabul, killing five people 13 August, TASS reported.

According to a Moscow television correspondent, 15 opposition units and detachments have arrived in the Kabul area from Pakistan since the beginning of the Soviet troop withdrawal. The correspondent disclosed that the families of Soviet diplomats and other citizens have returned to the USSR.

Shahnawaz Tanay, chief of the General Staff of the Afghan Armed Forces told BAKHTAR that since 15 May, Soviet units have withdrawn from 25 of the country's 31 provinces, Kabul radio reported.

The radio also cited Lieutenant General Boris Gromov, commander of the Soviet contingents in Afghanistan, who stated that Soviet contingents remained only in Samangan, Baghlan, Herat, Farah, Kapisa, and Kabul Provinces. Rauli Helminen, head of the UN observers group, confirmed that the Soviet withdrawal is being carried out "strictly in accordance with the time-table," TASS reported. Meanwhile, Kabul radio noted the departure of a 3,000-man Soviet brigade from Herat 13 August.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat To Declare Initiative at United Nations

JN1308111188 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 11 Aug 88 pp 1, 13

[Text] Amman—AL-BAYAN has learned that Yasir 'Arafat will participate in the coming UN session meetings in September. Informed sources said 'Arafat will present a Palestinian political initiative from the UN rostrum after the PNC officially approves it in its extraordinary session to be held in Baghdad. The PNC is the highest Palestinian legislative authority. These sources added that the Palestinian initiative will be based on partition Resolution No 181 for 1948, calling for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state next to the Hebrew state within an internationally recognized border.

Further on Reaction to Jordanian W. Bank Measures

Salah Khalaf Comments

NC1208131388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Beirut, 12 Aug (MENA)—Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, a senior Palestinian leader and Fatah's second-in-command, has stated that the Jordanian move places the onus on Arabs to bear their responsibility toward the occupied West Bank, which is now a Palestinian region, as King Husayn has acknowledged. The PLO is, therefore, responsible for the area, he said.

In an interview with the Lebanese magazine AL-USBU' AL-'ARABI, to be published on Monday, Khalaf said: We have to give a concrete form to the concept of our political presence in the West Bank and Gaza, starting with a provisional government, a government-in-exile, or a political structure through which we can deal with the Jordanian move, so that no political or constitutional vaccum is created at any level. This will also enable us to stand up to Israeli foolhardiness, such as the annexation of the West Bank and Gaza as advocated by Sharon and the Likud, he added.

According to Abu Iyad, the Americans are now seeking to establish a relationship with the PLO, and this makes it incumbent on the PLO to take steps which would facilitate international recognition, particularly American. This, he said, can be achieved through presenting an internationally acceptable political program which embarrasses the Americans and others and forces them to recognize the PLO as an integral party to the international conference.

Abu Iyad asserted that all Palestinians in the occupied territories agree about continuing the uprising until the right to self-determination is realized and the Palestinian state, which will solve all problems, is established.

Commenting on Arab financial support for the uprising, Abu Iyad said: The support agreed upon during the Algiers summit would have been sufficient had we received it. He noted the PLO has not yet received a penny of those funds. He pointed out that certain Arab countries, including Iraq and Saudi Arabia, have offered assistance, but the Algiers resolution in general has not been implemented to date.

In another development, Abu Iyad expressed his belief that the Soviet Union is now seeking a compromise regarding Palestinian representation and national Palestinian rights through negotiations with the Americans.

In conclusion, Abu Iyad called for continuing the Palestinian uprising, adopting a unified Arab stand, and keeping the PLO out of peripheral disputes, since this affects the American stand.

'Bold' Decision Praised

JN1308114188 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 11 Aug 88 p 1

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee, yesterday expressed to AL-BAYAN his belief that Jordanian King Husayn's decision on the West Bank was in the interest of Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation. In a statement to AL-BAYAN in Tunis, Abu Iyad said the Jordanian monarch was bold when he announced the decision enabling the PLO to shoulder its responsibilities and achieve new political rights.

Salah Khalaf added the PLO did not ask King Husayn to make this decision nor did it consult with him on it. However, he added, the PLO is keen to maintain a good relationship with Jordan. Khalaf said: The PLO will discuss this decision on political, administrative, and financial levels with Jordanian officials.

Khalaf pointed out the Jordanian decision has faced the PLO with a political decision with regard to the establishment of a government-in-exile. However, he affirmed the PLO's concern to study all aspects and to consult Arab brothers and friends in the world before making any decision to this effect.

No 'Breakoff' With Amman

LD1208162388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1455 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, Aug 12 (KUNA)—PLO representative to the Soviet Union Nabil 'Umri Friday advocated against exaggerating King Husayn's decision to sever links with the West Bank and not to consider it as termination of relations between Jordan and the PLO.

In a press conference held here, the Palestinian official affirmed the impossibility of a breakoff in relations between Amman and his organization.

He expressed hope that the current visit to Jordan by the PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas "Abu Mazin" would achieve constructive outcome to support the PLO, affirming that the Palestinian orgaization is capable of shouldering its responsibilities before the Palestinian people.

"The West Bank and Gaza Strip are not a heavy burden, but instead we see them as site of the Palestinian struggle against the Israeli occupation," he went on.

In the meantime, the Palestinian representative pointed out that the PLO is currently examining a number of alternatives such as "the independent Palestinian state and government," which will be seriously considered by the Palestine National Council.

'Umri stressed that the Palestinian leadership "will not hesitate to announce the Palestinian government in exile if this would be of benefit."

Whether Moscow has support the idea of the Palestinian goverment in exile, 'Umri avoided confirmation of such a report and said the PLO pays serious attention to Soviet suggestions.

Answering a question by KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY on the nature of a national independence document that was reportedly found when the Israeli forces arrested the Palestinian activist Faysal al-Husayni, 'Umri said that "announcement of such a document came from Israeli sources and whatever is said about it does not go beyond press speculation".

He noted that the leadership of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab lands has successfully announced its programmes and trends in coordination with the PLO.

On the halt of the Iraqi-Iranian war, the Palestinian official said it represents a great accomplishment that would reflect positively on the Palestinian struggle.

He added that the region had suffered a lot from this destructive war, pointing out that its cessation would secure stablity in the Arabian Gulf region and boost the struggle against Israel.

'Confederation' Expected

JN1308140488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1135 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Aug (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani expects that a confederation will be set up between Jordan and the independent Palestinian state. He added that King Husayn's decision made earlier this month to disengage legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank will pave the way in the final analysis to establishing a confederation between Jordan and the Palestinian state. He described the decision as going along with the Arab resolutions agreed upon during the last Arab summit.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-ANBA' published in Kuwait today, he described Jordanian-Palestinian relations as extremely positive. This has been so since the Jordanian monarch and Yasir 'Arafat met on the sidelines of the emergency summit which concluded its meetings recently in Algiers. He said the PLO should try hard to preserve the special relations existing between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

On Syrian-Palestinian dialogue, the Palestinian official said that after Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Damascus after Khalil al-Wazir was assassinated and his meetings with Hafiz al-Asad on the sidelines of the Arab emergency summit, there does not seem to be much hope in continuing the dialogue between the two sides. On the same topic, he referred to Arab mediation between the two sides and said they have not achieved anything new that brings hope of continuing dialogue.

PLO Official Calls on U.S. To 'Rethink' Policy

LD1308100588 Kuwait KUNA in English 0835 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 13 (KUNA)—A prominent Palestinian official called on the U.S. Government, in an interview published Saturday, to rethink its continued obstinate denial of the national rights of the Palestinian people.

"We welcome a rethink in the American attitude of the Palestinian people because the injustice inflicted upon us during the last 40 years came as a result of the total American participation in the criminal Israeli occupation of Palestinian land," said Jamal al-Surani, Executive Committee member of the PLO.

Speaking exclusively to the daily AN-ANBA', Al-Surani said the U.S. had never attempted to contribute genuinely to lifting injustice from the oppressed Palestinian people.

Replying to a question, the official said recognition of Israel is out of the question as long as Israel continues occupying Palestinian lands and denying the legitimate Palestinian rights, including self-determination.

Al-Surani stressed the best path to peace in the Mideast remained the Arab Fes summit peace plan calling for a U.N.-supervised conference attended by the five big powers of the Security Council and parties to the dispute inclusive of the PLO.

Al-Surani expressed satisfaction over Palestinian-Jordanian relations. He said Jordan's severance of legal and administrative ties with the West Bank paved the way for a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation after setting up a Palestinian state in accordance with Arab summit resolutions. As to relations with Syria, the Palestinian leader was disappointed that a dialogue with the Syrian leadership is not in sight despite numerous Arab and international mediation to improve ties between Damascus and the PLO leadership.

Responding to a question, Al-Surani expressed appreciation to Egypt's full backing for the Palestinian struggle and national rights. "We very much appreciate the Egyptian stance towards the Palestinian cause as it is firm and principled. Egypt had always supported the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and an independent state under the PLO leadership," he said.

Turning to the uprising against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Al-Surani affirmed it was gathering momentum despite Israeli and American efforts to liquidate it over the past eight months.

Concluding, the Palestinian official said the peaceful resolution of the Iran-Iraq war would undoubtedly help attain just and durable peace in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He explained that Arab countries should now step up pressure on the U.S. and Israel to opt for peace by recognizing Arab and Palestinian rights.

PFLP Welcomes Libya's Decision on Salaries

JN1208154088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] In Damascus, the PFLP, which is led by George Habash, today praised Libya's announcement of its desire to pay the salaries of Palestinians in the occupied territories who were dismissed by Jordan following the disengagement of relationships. A PFLP official source asserted that the PFLP highly appreciates this decision, which comes within the framework of the revolutionary Libyan initiatives and stands in support of the Palestinian cause.

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Foreign Ministers Meeting Continues

Food Reserve Plan in Effect

BK1208101088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0848 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 12 (AFP)—The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) food security reserve set up during the third SAARC summit in November will come into effect from Friday [12 August], official sources said here. The SAARC food reserve consists of 220,900 tonnes of foodgrains committed by the member countries for its use during emergencies.

Originally the reserve of the seven-member grouping was to consist of 200,000 tons of foodgrains, but it increased as Pakistan doubled its contribution to the stock, originally planned to be 19,000 tonnes. Nepal contributes 3,600 tonnes to the reserve, Bangladesh 21,100 tonnes, Bhutan 180 tonnes, India 153,200 tonnes, the Maldives 20 tonnes, Pakistan 40,000 tonnes and Sri Lanka 2,800 tonnes. It has already been announced that the SAARC regional convention on suppression of terrorism, also signed during the Kathmandu summit in November, will take effect on Monday.

Pakistan To Host Next Summit

BK1208145588 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Pakistan has agreed to host the next summit of heads of state and government of the SAARC in December this year. Pakistan's acceptance was conveyed by the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, to the foreign ministers of member states attending the fifth ministerial meeting in Kathmandu today. Sri Lanka, which was to host the fourth summit originally, has expressed its inability to do so in view of its preoccupation with resolving of the ethnic problem.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said it would be an honor and privilege for Pakistan to host the summit. Pakistan is deeply committed to the objectives of the SAARC and would make every endeavor to maintain rapid pace of its progress. It was in this spirit that, despite short notice, Pakistan has gladly agreed to host the next summit. The foreign minister said the exact date would be fixed in consultation with all the member states, taking into consideration their convenience.

Dhaka Details Proceedings

BK1308024188 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] The fourth SAARC summit will be held in Pakistan in December this year. This was announced in Kathmandu today at the end of the 2-day meeting of the SAARC council of ministers. The council in its report said that the ministers welcomed the decision of Pakistan to host the fourth summit in Islamabad.

The Nepalese foreign minister, Mr Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, who is the chairman of the council, told newsmen that the discussions were held in a free and frank atmosphere. The SAARC council of ministers adopted a draft report welcoming the finalization of the proposal to set up a SAARC agricultural center in Bangladesh. The center will be the first regional institution to be set up under the SAARC. The council approved the proposal put forward by Bangladesh to include education in the areas of regional cooperation. The ministers also noted the idea of Bangladesh on the possibility of establishing a SAARC friendship university. They took into consideration the suggestions of Bangladesh for a regional forum.

The council of ministers also decided not to grant observer or guest status to any other country to the SAARC. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh foreign minister, Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, has had talks with his Indian counterpart, Mr Narasimha Rao, in Kathmandu. They met exclusively for about 45 minutes in an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality. Mr Humayun Rashid Chowdhury later said they discussed the entire gamut of international, regional, bilateral, and matters of common interest.

The SAARC food security reserve comes into force from today. The reserve of about 221,000 tons will provide a much needed guard against food shortage and scarcity situation in the region. The decision to launch the reserve was endorsed by the SAARC council of ministers at their meeting in the Nepalese capital today. The Kathmandu summit last year decided to set up a SAARC food security reserve. The reserve will be made up of contributions by India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and the Maldives. Meanwhile, Bangladesh has sought a positive SAARC endorsement for its candidature for a nonpermanent seat in the UN Security Council. Speaking at the conference yesterday, Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury said there is an inherent advantage if the SAARC can speak with one voice.

Algeria

Reportage on Visit by Iran's Mo'ayeri to Algiers

Arrives 13 Aug

LD1308164288 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 13, IRNA—Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Ali-Reza Mo'ayeri arrived in Algiers Saturday at the head of a delegation and was welcomed at the airport by Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi.

Upon his arrival, Mo'ayeri told reporters that he was in Algiers to deliver President Khamene'i's message to his Algerian counterpart Chadli Bendjedid and hold talks on ways of strengthening mutual ties.

Received by Bendjedid

LD1408140588 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and party secretary general, received 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, Iranian deputy prime minister in charge of political affairs. Following the audience, 'Ali Reza made the following statement to the press:

[Begin Mo'ayeri recording in Persian with superimposed Arabic translation] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: I met Mr Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, and I had a written message from the president of the Republic to his brother. Also I spoke to him with regard to the acceptance of UN Resolution 598 and the cease-fire. Since Algeria has good and excellent relations with us, we came for bilateral consultations. Since Algeria is currently a nonpermanent member of the Security Council, we asked the president of the republic to support the peace efforts of the UN secretary general. We hope to see a firm peace in our region. [end recording]

Comments on UN 'Guarantees'

NC1408171188 Paris AFP in English 1656 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Algiers, Aug 14 (AFP)—Iran has received "guarantees" from the United Nations about the forthcoming direct talks it is to have with Iraq on a global settlement of the Gulf war, a senior Iranian official said here Sunday. 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, Iranian deputy prime minister for political affairs, said at the end of a two-day official visit here that Iranian leaders urged Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to support U.N. peace efforts. His remarks coincided with reports by political sources that Hocine Djioudi, Algeria's representative at the United Nations, could join the face-to-face talks Iran and Iraq are to have in Geneva later this month.

Mr. Mo'ayeri told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE the United Nations gave Iran "guarantees" that U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 for a cease-fire in the conflict would be implemented in full. This, he said, would include "the clauses pertaining to the formation of a committee to designate the aggressor (in the war) and compensation for damages" incurred by the conflict. Mr. Mo'ayeri said that two years ago Iran estimated its damages to around 300 billion dollars but that the figure was much higher now. [passage omitted]

Mr. Mo'ayeri said that the 1975 Algiers agreement on the Shatt al-'Arab—which laid down a new border at the deepest point of the waterway rather than on Iran's east bank—was a "good base" to solve the Gulf conflict. The Iran-Iraq war erupted over a dispute over Shatt al-Arab, which provides both countries with a major route for oil exports. At the outset of the war, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn tore up the Algiers agreement on the waterway.

Mr. Mo'ayeri also said that Iran was looking forward to improve its relations with "all Gulf states" but he said ties with Saudi Arabia, which were severed in April, would not be restored in the near future. The Iranian official added that a "durable peace" in the Gulf could have a positive effect on the crude oil market.

Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan was on a mission to Algiers last week ahead of Mr. Mo'ayeri. Iran and Iraq have been engaged in diplomatic offensives, with officials visiting Arab and Gulf states, ahead of the implementation of a formal cease-fire in the Gulf war.

Delivers Khamene'i Message

LD1508084488 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—Deputy prime minister for political affairs, 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri told Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid Sunday that Iran was very serious in the rapid implementation of Resolution 598. But, he added, Iraqi maneuverings have delayed implementation of a cease-fire.

Mo'ayeri, who is currently visiting Algeria expressed hope that Iran could marshal its vast potential against the Zionist regime after the establishment of a stable peace.

Later in the meeting, he submitted a message for President 'Ali Khamene'i inviting his Algerian counterpart to visit Iran. Bendjedid welcomed the invitation, and the date for the visit will be determined later.

President Bendjedid praised Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 saying the Algerian people greatly appreciate this move. He noted that all Muslims supported Iran's

peaceseeking move and the wise decision has only made the Zionist regime concerned.

Mo'ayeri heading a political delegation arrived in Algiers Saturday.

Further on Yasir 'Arafat's Talks in Algiers

JN1208194488 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, yesterday met with Brother President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria. During the meeting they discussed the latest Arab, Palestinian, and international developments, particularly the developments in the Palestinian arena in the occupied territories, the role played by the 9-month-old Palestinian heroic uprising, and the repeated Zionist aggressions against our people's camps in southern Lebanon.

The discussion also dealt with developments in the Palestinian arena, particularly after the latest Jordanian measures. They also discussed the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war in light of the latest cease-fire resolution and the need to achieve peace on the eastern gate of the Arab world so that all efforts will be directed to Palestine in order to liberate Jerusalem.

The president reiterated Algeria's firm stand, which supports the Palestinian people's legitimate struggle. Brother Abu 'Ammar thanked Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid for this brotherly and militant Algerian stand, which supports the Palestinian people.

Abu 'Ammar informed President Bendjedid of the proposal adopted by the PLO Central Council to convene an extraordinary session of the PNC in order to escalate and bolster our people's blessed uprising and to study the developments in the Arab and Palestinian arenas. The Algerian president agreed to host the PNC in Algiers and gave his orders to prepare for this session. Brother Abu 'Ammar thanked him for this stand, which supports the Palestinian people and their just cause.

The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by Fatah Central Committee Members Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid] and Hani al-Hasan, and Brother Abu Darr, Palestinian charge d'affairs in Algiers. On the Algerian side, the meeting was attended by Brothers Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Larbi Belkheir, and Sadek Zouaten.

Chad

Habre Receives Tunisian Foreign Minister

AB1408110388 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic yesterday at 1900 received the Tunisian foreign minister, Mr Abdelhamid Escheikh, who brought a message from President Ben Ali to his Chadian counterpart, El Hadj Hissein Habre. The Tunisian foreign minister's talks with the head of state lasted 50 minutes. [passage omitted]

Habre Arrives for Congo Anniversary Celebrations

AB1408212988 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Head of state El Hadj Hissein Habre arrived this afternoon in Brazzaville, the Congolese capital, where he will attend ceremonies marking the 25th anniversary of the three glorious days of the Congolese revolution. Several personalities are accompanying President Hissein Habre on this trip. They include Ouangmoutching Homsala, minister adviser at the Presidency; Joseph Dojo, UNIR [National Union for Independence and Revolution] Central Committee member; Adoum Yacoub, deputy commander in chief of the Chadian National Armed Forces; Ramadane Barma, technical adviser at the Presidency; and Mamadou Seyne, director of the presidential press. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Al-Jihad Members Start Riot in Cairo Mosque

Police Use Tear Gas

NC1308110788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—The police have seized the members of the Al-Jihad Organization who tried to carry out acts of incitement and violence in the Adam Mosque area in 'Ayn Shams. The police also have brought the situation there under control.

During this operation, a police officer and some citizens were injured when some of the said Al-Jihad members hurled stones and Molotov cocktails from the top of the walls surrounding the mosque.

The Prosecutor's Office is currently carrying out investigations into the incident and determining the extent of property damaged caused.

Reports had earlier indicated that some members of the Al-Jihad Organization in the 'Ayn Shams area were planning to carry out acts of incitement and violence and to hold an organizational meeting at the Adam Mosque after sunset prayers yesterday. A number of leading Al-Jihad personalities, who are wanted by the police for their involvement in an attempt to create religious strife in the area, distributing antigovernment leaflets, and inciting demonstrations and riots, were due to attend that meeting.

When the security forces left for the area to arrest these members, some youths linked with the organization hurled stones at the security forces in an attempt to delay them. The organization's members who had assembled inside the mosque closed the gates and mounted the

walls from where they hurled stones and Molotov cocktails. A police officer was injured as a result and taken to the hospital. Some citizens also were injured.

Other elements linked with the first group incited a riot in the area and burned tires and some discarded items. They also set fire to a police vehicle.

The security situation has been brought under control with the use of tear gas grenades and the rioting Al-Jihad members have been arrested. The Prosecutor's Office is carrying out investigations and determining property damage.

1 Dead, 27 Arrested

NC1308160388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—Security forces have brought under control the situation in the 'Ayn Shams area. This morning a number of the area's inhabitants gathered, led by some extremist elements from the Al-Jihad organization who were instigating demonstrations in protest of incidents yesterday evening in 'Ayn Shams, when some of them set fire to three unoccupied police cars.

Some 27 of those who led today's demonstration have been arrested and 23 inhabitants have sustained various injuries. One of these has since died of his wounds. The situation is now calm, and the authorities have initiated an investigation.

2 Killed; 180 Arrested

NC1408082988 Cairo MENA in English 0810 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—All Cairo morning papers, Arabic and English alike, highlighted on their frontpages reports on riots and unrest stirred by Muslim extremist members of Al-Jihad Organization on Friday night in 'Ayn Shams suburb, eastern Cairo. They threw fire balls. After setting the police cars on fire, they prevented firemen from extinguishing the blaze and cut roads in the neighbourhood with burning tires.

Two citizens were killed and 48 others were wounded. Two police officers were injured, one seriously.

Security police arrested 180 extremists. Security police acted, with the help of the citizens, to restore calm.

59 'Suspects' in Custody

NC1408104188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo 14 Aug (MENA)—The public prosecutor today decided to remand in custody for 15 days 59 suspects connected with the events in the 'Ayn Shams area 2 days ago. He also decided to have a medical expert to examine one of the suspects in an attempt to determine his age. Investigations carried out by security departments into the matter indicated that the aforesaid persons were involved in the incidents.

The Supreme State Security Prosecution under first public attorney Raja' al-'Arabi and the Eastern Cairo Prosecutor's Office led by public attorney Ahmad 'Abd al-Bari are continuing their investigations into the events.

In the meantime, reports indicate that the situation at the scene of the incidents is stable and quiet.

92 Still in Custody

NC1508091788 Paris AFP in English 0833 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, Aug 15 (AFP)—The public prosecutor has ordered the remand in custody of 92 Moslem fundamentalists accused of attempted murder, illegal possession of weapons, illegal assembly and criminal damage after clashes with police, court sources said Monday.

The 92 alleged members of the extremist group Jihad were among some 170 people arrested Friday and Saturday after violence in the teeming 'Ayn Shams suburb of Cairo. More than 30 minors were among the detained.

The daily AL-AHRAM said two people died and 50 were injured in the clashes, adding that several innocent bystanders were hurt when they were caught up in the fighting. But unconfirmed reports put the death toll at more than two.

Another Cairo paper, AL-AKHBAR, said those who died had been shot by police using special anti-riot ammunition.

Four policemen were among the wounded, including Captain Muhammad Zakariyah Khalil, who was in a coma Sunday after sustaining a fractured skull, according to AL-AHRAM.

The paper said 20 of Jihad's leaders were arrested, adding that the demonstrators disrupted Friday evening prayers at the Adam Mosque in 'Ayn Shams.

The violence began when police tried to serve arrest warrants on a number of the fundamentalists.

Riot squads opened fire and launched tear-gas grenades to disperse the extremists, who set four police cars ablaze, burned tyres, and tried to attack a police station near the mosque.

Fundamentalists, who took refuge in the mosque and carried firearms, sticks and other weapons, also torched 11 other cars and damaged six police vehicles, the semi-official AL-AHRAM said.

Those charged could face life sentences of hard labour, court sources said.

'Abd al-Majid Returns From Visit to Oman

NC1308145788 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Cairo this afternoon after a 3-day visit to Oman. Upon his arrival, his excellency said that President Husni Mubarak had charged him with conveying a written message to Omani Sultan Qabus and that the Sultan had given him a message for President Mubarak.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that the Egyptian-Omani talks were an occasion to exchange views on bilateral relations and the situation in the region. He emphasized that the views of the two countries on these issues were identical. He also lauded the strong relations between the Egyptian and Omani leaders and between the peoples of the two countries.

Regarding Egyptian prisoners in Iran, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that Egypt has contacted the International Red Cross and the United Nations about this matter but has received no response from Iran. He added that in view of the new circumstances, it appears efforts will be made to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598, including exchange of prisoners. He said that this subject will be discussed during the Iraqi-Iranian talks which will begin on 25 August for implementing the Security Council resolution's provisions, which include the exchange of prisoners.

As for, the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said Egypt regards them as a positive step by the PLO to meet with Jordan to discuss matters affecting the Palestinian issue. He said Egypt's stance on this matter is known and that President Mubarak has emphasized the importance of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. His excellency also affirmed that Egypt welcomes the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation which will visit Cairo soon. He said that contacts and consultations between Egypt and the PLO are continuing.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid concluded by commenting on reports that the PLO intends to establish a government-in-exile. He said Egypt welcomes a Palestinian decision, because they alone can determine their own fate.

Shevardnadze To Visit; New Proposals Expected

LD1408112388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1037 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, Aug 14 (KUNA)—Contacts between Cairo and Moscow are currently underway to set a date for Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Egypt in the framework of his tour in the region expected either in September or October.

Egyptian daily "AL WAFD" organ of the opposition party AL WAFD, published Sunday, quoted diplomatic sources here as saying that the Soviet chief diplomat will carry new Soviet proposals to push forward the Mideast peace process in the light of Jordan's recent measures of severing legal and administrative links with the West Bank.

Shevardnadze, the sources went on, had sent last Monday a special message to Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid that dealt with coordinating the two countries' efforts to end the current stalemate in the Middle East crisis.

In addition to Egypt, the Soviet official will tour Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria in response to invitations from foreign ministers of these countries.

The sources pointed out that director of the Mideast countries department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Vladimir Polyakov, had affirmed recently in a meeting with the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy that Moscow will soon launch intensive diplomatic moves to help solve the Palestinian question.

They added, in the meantime, that Washington is trying to stall peace efforts in the region till after the November presidential elections.

Murphy's recent tour of the region was only a political maneuver to preoccupy the Mideast arena away from any Soviet political presence, the paper further quoted the sources as indicating.

The sources concluded by uncovering new American assertions to Cairo that Washington rejects a dialogue with any PLO member.

President Husni Mubarak has failed to arrange a meeting between Palestinian elements and the U.S. Mideast envoy Richard Murphy during his last week to Cairo.

Butrus Ghali on NDP, CPSU Cooperation

JN1408110688 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 12 Aug 88 pp 28-30, 66

[Dr Sami 'Amarah Dispatch From Moscow]

[Excerpts] Dr Butrus Ghali's visit to Moscow, as all other visits, has enjoyed extensive media coverage from the premise of the interest shown by official and social Soviet quarters in Egypt and in its role in the Arab and international arenas. The recent visit acquired special importance since it took place during the Soviet capital's celebrations of the 36th july 1952 revolution anniversary and the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR met with Dr Ghali in Moscow to ask him about what had taken place during his 5-day visit to the Soviet capital. Dr Butrus Ghali, chairman of the Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Society, NDP General Secretariat member, and minister of state for foreign affairs, said: My trip to the Soviet Union had several objectives. The first was to participate in the July 1952 revolution anniversary celebrations. I met with Valentina Tereshkova, chairman of the presidium of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. I also met with Vladimir Vinogradov, chairman of the Ussr-Egypt society. As a result of these meetings, a cooperation agreement was signed between the Egyptian and Soviet friendship societies. I also met with Anatoliy Dobrynin, secretary of the Secretariat of the CPSU Central Committee, with whom I discussed concepts for cooperation between the NDP and the CPSU, as well some international issues like the state of affairs in the Middle East, the Iraq-Iran war, and the liquidation of colonialism in the southern part of the African continent. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR asked Dr Ghali about the issue of the establishment of relations between the NDP and the CPSU which he had discussed in Moscow within the framework of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's new approach. Dr Ghali said: The talks with Anatoliy Dobrynin dealt with the issue of whether it was possible to consider the agreements that were signed in the past between the Arab Socialist Union and the CPSU as still valid or whether new agreements must be signed. Our stand, as proposed by NDP Secretary General Dr Yusuf Wali, is that it is necessary to prepare new agreements for cooperation between the NDP and the CPSU.

I asked Dr Ghali: Do we understrand from this that the initiative on cooperation between the two parties has been made by the Egyptian side, and how did the Soviet side react to this?

Dr Ghali said: yes, we were the ones who proposed this and the Soviet side welcomed this idea.

I asked him: Will practical steps be taken in the near future to translate this idea?

Dr Ghali said: I cannot confirm this now. I will submit the results of the contacts on this issue and the Egyptian political leadership is the one that will make the appropriate decision.[passage omitted]

Cooperation Official Leaves for Poland

NC1408083888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—'Abd al-'Aziz al-Zahwi, first under secretary at the Ministry of International Cooperation, departed Cairo this morning at the head of a delegation on a week-long visit to Poland. During the visit, Al-Zahwi will attend the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Polish Committee for Economic Cooperation, which will last for 5 days and be held in Warsaw. The discussions at the meetings, which will open tomorrow, will deal with ways to promote bilateral cooperation in the fields of industry, electricity, housing and reconstruction, and agriculture. The conferees also will examine ways to increase bilateral trade as well as the problems obstructing the implementation of the balanced trade deal, signed between the two countries in 1986.

PLO Envoy To Convey 'Arafat Message to Mubarak

NC1208143788 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] PLO Representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal arrived in Cairo today. He stated that he will convey to President Husni Mubarak a message from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on the PLO stand on recent developments in the Palestinian situation.

Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met with Sa'id Kamal and they reviewed the current situation in light of the recent developments in the Arab arena.

Kamal stated that a Palestinian delegation led by Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, will arrive in Cairo in the next few days to hold talks with Egyptian officials on developments in the Palestinian issue and efforts to be made during the coming state to give an impetus to the peace march.

Tabah Meetings Called 'Fruitful,' 'Cordial'

JN1408082288 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 12 Aug 88 p 22

[Text] A ranking Egyptian Foreign Ministry official has told AL-MUSAWWAR that the political talks on Tabah were fruitful and cordial but that no new stands have been adopted. He added that the conferees exchanged viewpoints only.

A prelimary meeting was held among the Egyptian, U.S., and Israeli delegations the day before yesterday followed by a preliminary meeting between the Israeli and Egyptian delegations. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid received Abraham Sofaer following Monday's session, and Yosi Ben-Aharon following Tuesday's session.

AL-MUSAWWAR has learned that the talks dealt with the proposal to postpone the arbitration and the possibility of an Israeli participation in the management of the hotel and tourist village in Tabah, points which were previously raised but which Egypt had rejected. AL-MUSAWWAR has also learned that other meetings on Tabah are not expected to be held between Egypt and Israel before the arbitration decision is made at the end of September.

Libya

Iran's Velayati Arrives in Tripoli 14 Aug

LD1408162188 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Aug (JANA)—Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli at noon today on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Dr Velayati made a statement to JANA at Tripoli International Airport in which he said that he is visiting in order to consult and exchange viewpoints about the latest developments in the region, as well as to discuss the bilateral relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Meets Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1508073888 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0721 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Aug (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister. The brother leader praised both Iran and Iraq for halting the war. He referred to the need to direct the guns toward the common enemy, which is the Zionist enemy.

During his meeting with brother 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the brother leader of the revolution expressed the willingness of the Great Jamahiriyah to respond to any sign from both sides to solve any complications that might arise in the future.

The brother leader of the revolution also expressed his concern regarding the fate of the Kurdish community whose fate should be decided once the war ends.

More on Meeting

LD1508081588 Tehran IRNA in English 0801 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA—Libyan leader Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi praised Iran's acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598 describing it as a 'wise action for ending the war'.

Al-Qadhdhafi who was speaking to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Tripoli Sunday reiterated Libya's support for the Islamic Republic saying that the Libyan people will never forget and will always appreciate Iran's unsparing support against imperialistic aggressions.

During the meeting, Velayati submitted a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i, and conferred with the Libyan leader on important regional issues.

Velayati who arrived in Tripoli Sunday on an official visit outlined the procedure of talks with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar after Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598.

He also emphasised the importance of strategic and firm ties between the two Muslim and revolutionary countries saying that the campaign against Zionism and its supporters continues like before in harmony with other progressive Muslim people to materialise Islamic and revolutionary goals.

Foreign Minister Velayati had left here for Syria and Libya Saturday. During his 24-hour stay in Damascus, he met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and submitted a message from Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i.

'Arafat, Al-Qadhdhafi Confer in Tripoli

JN1308170688 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Comittee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, today met with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli. The meeting dealt with issues of concern to the Palestinian people, particularly means to support and escalate the uprising in the occupied territories, the need to form a Palestinian government-in-exile, and the arrangements that must be made to face the Palestinian people's requirements in the West Bank.

The meeting was attended by Fatah Central Committee member Brother Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid].

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message From Ben Ali

LD1408193888 Tripoli JANA in English 1648 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 14, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has received a congratulatory message from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia on the occasion of the new lunar year.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali wished, in his message, the leader good health and happiness and to the Libyan Arab people more progress and prosperity.

Foreign Liaison Bureau on Proposed Arab Union

LD1408194988 Tripoli JANA in English 1634 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 14, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—Sources at the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau asserted that the project proposed by the leader of the revolution for the Arab union is meeting a positive response by Arab heads of state and monarchs and emirs who received the envoys of the leader regarding this subject.

The leader of the revolution declared the project of the charter of Arab union in the important speech he directed to the Arab nation on the 18th anniversary of the Great Al-Fatih [1 September] Revolution and the 9th anniversary of the producers revolution on 1st September 1987 and he submitted it to the Arab heads of state, monarchs and emirs at the Arab emergency summit held in Algeria on 9th Al-Sayf, June, 1988.

The project of the charter of Arab union proposed by the leader reflects the massive unionist efforts being exerted by the leader of the revolution ever since the beginning of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution so as to protect the Arab existence from destruction and fragmentation, maintain the legitimate rights, interests and resources of the Arab nation, at the forefront the right of its citizens to live in freedom, dignity and prosperity on earth and under the sun.

The project guarantees the establishment of a union between the Arab countries which safeguards the special character of each country, realises the gathering of all Arab strategic resources to deal with their fateful issues which once achieved will provide an important and advanced historical point of departure for the realisation of total Arab unity which is the demand of all Arabs from the Gulf to the ocean.

Also, the project guarantees the arrival to a concerted action which safeguards the future of this nation in confronting all dangers and challenges including the Zionist imperial presence aimed at the elimination of Arab existence. Furthermore, the project guarantees the exit from economic backwardness and the realisation of progress and development and the guaranteeing of appropriate future for this nation.

The project of the Arab union proposed by the leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution comes from the belief of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution in the national belonging to the Arab nation and the common civilized Arab heritage and from its awareness of the same Arab destiny and from being aware of the deteriorating territorialism in the Arab motherland.

Former Diplomat on Plans To Kill Journalists

JN1408192088 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 13 Aug 88 p 3

[Excerpts] Somewhere in a quiet Alexandria suburb, I met with a young Libyan revolutionary for several hours. I could not help being moved by his expressive looks despite the importance and gravity of the secrets he divulged. It was with bitterness and pain that Libyan diplomat Salim 'Abd al-Rahman al-Su'ayti, who served on his country's UN mission, spoke. Al-Su'ayti had announced at a Washington news conference his defection to the Front for the Salvation of Libya. He gave insight into the mind of Libya's madman and how the country was being run to suit the temperament of Al-Qadhdhafi regardless of the people's real interests.

My interlocutor being a diplomat, it was natural that I began by asking about the Al-Qadhdhafi regime's controversial foreign policies.

Libyan diplomat 'Abd al-Rahman al-Su'ayti said: Any coherent policy on Arab and other issues must be based on objectivity and reason and revolve around the people's interests. In Libya, However, Al-Qadhdhafi's personal interests and temperament have precedence. I asked how. Al-Su'ayti said: I'll tell you about an episode I experienced during my service at the Foreign Ministry, where many facts are kept secret. A plane carrying Al-Qadhdhafi's brother-in-law 'Abdallah al-Sanusi, who is in charge of foreign operations at Libya's intellegence service, and Hasan Ishkal, a cousin of al-Qadhdhafi's, who was assassinated recently, made a forced landing at Tunis Airport. Hasan Ishkal proceeded to Paris, but 'Abdallah al-Sanusi was searched and questioned. Al-Qadhdhafi treated this as a personal insult. Many cables were sent by the Libyan Foreign Ministry to clarify what happened, but the Tunisian Government ignored the cables, thus aggravating bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

The Libyan diplomat said: Egypt has always been targeted by the Al-Qadhdhafi regime. Even the Egyptian papers critical of Al-Qadhdhafi have been targeted. Preparations were made for terrorist attacks against them. 'Abdallah al-Sanusi and his assistant Sa'id Rashid devised a plan to blow up the offices of AKHBAR AL-YAWM and AL-AHRAM and another to assassinate Egyptian and other Arab journalists.

Who are they, I asked.

The Libyan diplomat said: A plan was laid to assassinate Mustafa Amin, Ibrahim Sa'dah, Mahmud al-Sa'dani, Wajih Abu Dhikri, and Ahmad al-Jarallah, chief editor of the Kuwaiti daily AL-SIYASAH. Al-Qadhdhafi himself gave orders to 'Abdallah al-Sanusi and Sa'id Khayshsh that they see to the liquidation of those journalsits to serve as a lesson for potential detractors of Al-Qadhdhafi. Sa'id Rashid, an Al-Qadhdhafi aide, asked Hassunah al-Shawish to supply him with information about the journalists' movements. Al-Shawish arranged for their movements to be tracked by workers in certain Kuwaiti newspapers, including a Lebanese journalist whose services have often been made available to Libya.

Salim al-Su'ayti adds: The Libyan Foreign Ministry had a telegram from Al-Shawish to the effect that the targets had been divided into three groups:

First—Mustafa Amin and Ibrahim Sa'dah. The latter was trailed during visits to Paris and London, but the assassination squad was unprepared during his presence in the two capitals.

Second—Mahmud al-Sa'dani and Ahmad al-Jarallah. We had a cable saying that Al-Sa'dani would travel with Al-Jarallah to London tomorrow. The message was addressed to Samir Khayshhah. It was followed by cables to the Libyan maritime line in Athens and Rome, both terror nests, ordering a liquidation of Al-Sa'dani and Al-Jarallah. Luckily, however, the plane did not stop off at the two airports.

Third—Wajih Abu Dhikri. He was sent several threatening letters. The plan called for his assassination in Egypt. I can say with certainty that the plans to kill them are still on the table. Some Al-Qadhdhafi aides have sought to talk him out of proceeding with the plans, to which he said, verbatim: Their corpses must be mutilated so they serve as an object lesson for whoever attempts to harm the state of the masses. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

President Receives Libyan Delegation Leader

LD1408053088 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, received today Mr (Farhat Salih Sharnanah), secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy and Foreign Trade in Libya, who leads his country's delegation to the meetings of the Mauritanian-Libyan joint committee. [passage omitted]

Statement Issued on Talks

LD1508094288 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The Libyan-Mauritanian joint commission ended its work in Nouakchott. The final session took place at the premises of the secretariat general of the government. Here is a dispatch by the radio reporter:

[Unidentified correspondent] During the final session, which was held before midnight, the minutes of the results of the commission meeting were signed by Mauritanian Economy and Finance Minister Mohamed Ould Nany and Dr (Farhat Sharnanah), Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy and Foreign Trade. [passage omitted]

A press statement on the meeting of the Libyan-Mauritanian commission for cooperation has been issued. It was read out by the secretary of the Libyan Fraternal Bureau in Nouakchott.

[Begin recording] Within the framework of the fraternal relations between the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, and in asserting the common desire of the leaderships of both countries to develop and bolster cooperation in all spheres, the Libyan Arab-Mauritanian Joint Commission for Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technical Cooperation held its 11th session in the city of Nouakchott from 11 to 13 August 1988.

The Libyan Arab side was led by Dr (Farhat Salih Sharnanah), the secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy and Foreign Trade, and the Mauritanian side by Economy and Finance Minister Brother Mohammed Ould Nany.

During the brother secretary's stay in Nouakchott, he was received by His Excellency Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state.

In an atmosphere in which a spirit of genuine fraternity and constructive cooperation prevailed, the joint commission reviewed various aspects of cooperation between the two fraternal countries in several spheres, the most important of which were the economic, agricultural, sea wealth, education, health, social and cultural affairs, youth and sport. The meeting recommended that the 12th session should held in Tripoli.

In conclusion, the Libyan Arab side expressed its profound thanks for the warm welcome and hospitality it received. [applause] [end recording]

Morocco

King Hassan Meets Saudi Defense Minister

LD1408175588 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1535 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Rabat, [no date as received]—King Hassan II of Morocco this afternoon received at his majesty's Skheirat Palace His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general. During the meeting friendly comments about the fraternal bilateral relations were exchanged. [passage omitted]

King Hassan Gives Interview to Algerians 11 Aug

LD1408223888 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Interview with His Majesty King Hassan II by an Algerian media delegation; 11 August in Skheirat Palace]

[Excerpts] Following is the full text of his majesty's interview to the Algerian press delegation:

[Hassan] In the name of God the compassionate and merciful, I would like to welcome you journalists who come from a fraternal country. As long as you [words indistinct].

[Reporter] You are welcome and your [word indistinct]. Your Majesty, I would like at the start of this meeting to express on behalf of all colleagues representing the Algerian (?information media) our great appreciation and our gratitude for the invitation of Your Majesty's

Government to visit fraternal Morocco and to familiarize ourselves with it and the level it has reached. During our useful tour through the Kingdom we have seen the standard of development that Morocco has achieved and also the ingenuity of the fraternal Moroccan people in linking its deep traditions with modernization. And as media men we have gained a lot and enriched our knowledge.

It is our duty to apprise the people in both of our countries of the facts we have learned. Your Majesty, we would like to assure you that we realize the extent of our task to aid deeper rapprochement between our two peoples. We beg Your Majesty to provide us with your guidance to carry out this difficult task and thank you. [passage omitted]

[Saidani] Saidani from REVOLUTION AFRICAINE. I would like to know your reaction to the peace proposals of Perez de Cuellar concerning the Western Sahara conflict.

[Hassan] I can answer this as candidly as you have asked me: We know that there is a letter destined for us, and I think that it is the last correspondence before the opening of the UN session. At this moment I am speaking to you, our foreign affairs minister, as well as our ambassador to the United Nations, Filali and Slaoui, are in the office of the secretary general who is due to hand them the last proposals concerning the organization and procedures for a referundum in the Sahara. I believe that in this correspondence, the secretary general asks for a reply before the end of August. We will give him the reply we deem best and most appropriate. But this is all I can say to you. I have not received the letter yet, the message from the secretary general. I believe I will receive it in the coming days, in the next 48 hours. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Your Majesty, I would like to ask the same question from a different angle: You are a man of words. How do you intend to use this quality to reach just and definitive settlement to the Western Sahara conflict?

[Hassan] Through a referendum. I believe that is the only way to resolve the Western Sahara problem definitively. [passage omitted]

What is my objective in asking for a referendum? My objective is simply the following: To close definitively this file which could cause tensions with my neighbors, both the Algerians and Mauritanians. In order to avoid legal conflicts, Morocco will make the historic and responsible decision to prove by actions that it wants to construct the Maghreb, with no ulterior motives.

Only a referendum, international and recognized by the United Nations—those who control the United Nations—and ratified by the United Nations, (?would then permit) a clear-cut and eternal solution after God; only God is eternal. Then Morocco, within the borders given to it by the referendum, immediately will take up its primary task—without ulterior motive and without grudges, to build the Greater Maghreb with the cooperation of its neighbors.

I personally believe that this is the most elegant, most equitable, and most dignified way. Because, in the final analysis, if the referendum is not undertaken, who is going to be rewarded? It is very difficult. Are we going to reward those who live in peace, who are the majority and who are working daily, who are not fighting a war, who have no guns? Or are we going to reward those who have guns and cannons?

Second, has one the right to decide? Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, or Mauritania—have they the right to decide, to seal the fate of the Saharan population by telling them, "You are going to be attached to Morocco, without further ado," or, "You are all going to be given to a minority called the Polisario." In my view, this would be disrespectful to the whole Saharan population. Therefore, the best way to attain justice, clarity, and even the respect of these populations is to give them the possibility, quietly and objectively, to say what they want to become.

Then, I believe, nobody would consider himself unfairly treated or vanquished or a victor. I very much want this formula. [passage omitted] I can not see any solution other than the referendum. I think that I have been clear.

[Ben Alla] Ahmed Ben Alla from PARCOURS MAGHREBAN. To come back to the building of the Maghreb, Your Majesty, you said recently that the building of the Greater Maghreb, of the Maghreb, despite the delay, will be done more rapidly than in Europe. This coincides with the words of President Chadli Bendjedid who, in his state of the nation message, also said concerning the Maghreb: One can go quickly and far by showing realism and audacity. There is, therefore, a common political will to go forward, but in a concrete way. In Your Majesty's view, what mechanisms that would permit better rhythms, the wanted rhythms?

[Hassan] In my view, at the start, the mechanisms must be to take stock. One must list the points that might cause contention or obstructions between the five countries. In the course of this listing or stock-taking, we will find ourselves faced with two situations: that concerning procedure and another regarding institutions. Procedural matters depending on the signatures of ministers and government are no problem at all. Therefore, we will have to take institutional measures which will be submitted to our respective parliaments, tackling certain articles or clauses of our respective constitutions.

It is then that there may be a voluntary choice to surrender sovereignty. For, in the final analysis, when we unite each of us must surrender part of our sovereignty.

In my view, such an surrender of sovereignty, far from being a negative aspect, would constitute the positive nucleus of the Maghreb. [passage omitted]

Here we must show imagination, because the economic and social regimes of our countries are not the same. [passage omitted] Then one must be farsighted, to see where the world is moving, whether toward planning or liberalism, to see the structural plan, the plan for training men, cadres, training citizens of the Maghreb for the year 2000, and the institutional and legal means to be used. [passage omitted]

As is said, there are things that can be done immediately, with a signature, and there are things that can be done through consultation and adaptation by each of us of the economic and social structures so that integration may be permitted as quickly as possible.

[APS reporter] There is a report that a Maghreb summit will be held in Tunis in November. This meeting would take place after that of the inter-Maghreb commission to be held in Rabat on 27 October. The question therefore has two parts. First, could you confirm that such a summit will be held? Second, will such a summit somehow ratify what you have just said—the beginning of the construction of the Maghreb?

[Hassan] First, I can neither confirm nor deny this summit. I hear about it here and there in the press, from certain radios, but in fact nothing has been fixed between us, the heads of state, neither the date nor the venue.

Concerning your second question, one must not forget that the five Maghreb countries have allocated themselves tasks. It so happens that the institutions commission, the very one that will have to lay down the framework, or at least suggest the framework for community work, resides in Tripoli, in Libya. Surely, this is the commission that will have the least freedom of action, for it cannot decide with a stroke of the pen the unitary vectors of our coexistence, the legal framework. This, first, depends on the heads of state and then on their peoples.

I imagine that the day when we draw up a plan of cohabitation at the executive and legislative levels, I think—I imagine it this way—that we, the heads of state, will have agreed on a minimum level, and then each of us will submit it to a referendum to our respective countries. Therefore, and in reply to your question, the institutions commission which is due to meet in Tripoli will have to take stock, or suggest to us a certain number of ideas; then we, the heads of state, will have to come to an agreement on a general framework. This framework will have to be the largest possible, so as not to have to go back and break it up. I prefer to see a large, flexible, even elastic framework. For we must not be overtaken by a tragedy such as that of the Arab League, for the charter of the Arab League is too hard, too precise, too firm, too rigid, and I would even say obsolete. It was drawn up in 1947, and we are in 1988.

Therefore, as far as I am concerned, I should wish a quite large institutional framework at the start, whose borders would not be made of metal or wood but of a quite elastic rubber so that we may be able to enlarge it and not have to break it up. [passage omitted]

To answer your question, I think that the first task of the first summit should be to discuss the general, supple, pliant, flexible framework which would have to administer our moral, political, economic, and social interests, and above all administer our identity as those of the Maghreb. It is, in my view, the essential capital that we possess.

[Words indistinct]

[Hassan] Please go ahead.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, recently the Arab nations have been living in an atmosphere of rejoicing, hope and optimism, due to new facts, foremost among which, I believe, is the blessed uprising of the masses of the occupied soil. Then there is the convening of the Arab summit in Algiers, the detente that had taken place within the framework of the Arab Maghreb, the new dynamism now witnessed in the Maghreb arena, and last but not least, the signs of peace which have now emerged in the Arabian Gulf area after Iran's announcement of its acceptance of the cease-fire. What is your Majesty's evaluation of these tension-relaxing initiatives, and what is their effect on the future of relations between Arab states?

[Hassan] Your enumeration of what is happening in the world in the way of relaxation—I can add to all this relaxation in Afghanistan and in the Namibia issue, and relaxation in the rapprochement between North and South Korea—all this shows that there is a blessed fever, the fever of peace, sweeping the world—a blessed fever which is infectious, and peace is infectious. Therefore, we in the Arab Maghreb must not remain the only hot spot in the world.

(? If this not) is realized in the Arab Maghreb area, then we will be really inviting blame from the entire world. The world appears today to be wanting relaxation, wanting a rest, wanting (? a breather); [words indistinct] and in particular Algeria and Morocco must be worthy of the hopes and goodwill of the entire world. Therefore I believe that if there were to be a general framework for relaxation and rapprochement and for contemplating the future, it is the period in which we are now living and the world as it is today. As I thought and said, in all the hot

and warm places there are signs of peace and pacification. Among these places are southwest Africa and northwest Africa. We must, therefore, open our arms as well to this blessed fever—the fever of peace, pacification, and reconciliation.

[Ben Zghiba] Mohamed Ben Zghiba, general director of AL-SHA'B and EL MOUDJAHID. My question, Your Majesty, is related to the Palestinian issue. At the emergency summit in Algiers, the Arab countries agreed on the effective international conference [word indistinct]. Then there are recent developments taking place in the Middle East region and those made in Jordan about the Jordanian administration's withdrawal from the West Bank, and the talk in recent days even about a Palestinian government. How does Your Majesty view these developments and these setbacks after the summit conference in Algiers and their relationship to the situation in the occupied territories?

[Hassan] When we held a closed session, King Husayn delivered a lengthy speech, the backbone of which was the following: He spoke of Jordanian-Palestinian relations over dozens of years. He touched then upon the conditions in which the Palestinians and the Jordanians live, whether they were in free Jordan or in the occupied West Bank. He added that there are close relations between the Jordanian Government and the administrators and population of the West Bank, not only on the level of the movement of people but also with regard to passports and the (? discharge of affairs). He concluded almost as follows: This is the situation in which we lived, fathers and sons, for years. If accord means that we continue in the same situation in Jordan, then it is welcome. And if it was seen that this coexistence contravenes the fact that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinians, then I personally, as King Husayn had said, will make the decision which the Palestinians want us to make.

The question remained unanswered. Particularly due to the fact that it was decided in Baghdad 10 years ago that the oil-producing countries would support the confrontation states, but only for 10 years. This period ended at the begining of this year. Among the questions raised by King Husayn was how Jordan would be capable of confronting the enemy regarding arms and supplies and whatever is necessary; and how it could continue its commitments in regard to the officials, who total more than 25,000 persons?

However, when we parted in Algiers—at least this how I feel, and I think the others felt the same—I personally sensed a sort of bitterness in King Husayn's speech. But I did not sense that he could sign this decree, which in the final analysis is concerned with Jordanian sovereignty. What could have complicated the matter is that after the recent demonstrations in the occupied territories, the demonstrators themselves declared they wanted independence and that the occupied territories had no future with Jordan, had no relations with Jordan, and wanted to solve their problems by themselves. This could have been the straw that broke the camel's back, and the decision was taken.

Whatever the situation, with this decision or without, some years ago—I think 10 years ago—I proposed to my Palestinian brothers that they form a government in exile, shoulder their responsibility, and make it clear to everyone that they are capable of organizing their affairs, be it in the occupied territories or in the liberated territories. I was always citing to them the example of the provisional government of Algeria. I used to tell them that it would make the task easier for us, even for Morocco or for Tunisia, which is a neighbor. During the Algerian war of liberation, the government in exile and the division of responsibilities facilitated the task for us to help one another. Second, it gave credibility to the Algerian resistance. There was no encroachment or overreaching by one or the other. But now we find their chief says something and the number two, who is always changeable, says the opposite, then a third report comes from a different source altogether.

Therefore, if this decision benefits the formation of a government in exile and the organization of all responsibilities and, finally, progress on the Palestinian question and the Palestinian issue in an organized and logical way, then it would be our duty to thank His Majesty King Husayn for his decision.

[APS reporter] Your Majesty, concerning a campaign statement by Mr Michael Dukakis, you correctly said that he would forget all his promises if he is elected. In fact, this statement concerned U.S. relations with the Arab countries, with the Arab nation, and the U.S. unconditional support of Israel. Are we, as always, going to continue to talk with the United States about the Palestine question, given that the United States does not want to change its position toward the Palestinians?

[Hassan] Personally, I think that U.S. disengagement from Israel could [words indistinct] begin in the coming years; for, the stronger detente between the two superpowers is, the more consistent and substantial it is, the less will be the threat of Cuba to Florida and of Israel to Moscow. I may be wrong, but I have always drawn a parallel between Cuba and Israel in strategic matters and the threat that still looms over the U.S. or the Soviet capitals.

Do not forget what happened in 1963 regarding the missiles that Khrushchev sent to Cuba. History repeats itself. The more effective detente is, the less Israel will be regarded as a strategic U.S. base—that is how I consider it. Besides, even if it has not changed, the United States should do this, because one cannot save somebody against his will. And the alarm by Aba Eban should be taken into consideration. In a few years, the Jews will be

a minority in Israel. Then what will Israel do? Will it practice apartheid? Will there be a minority ruling a majority? The Americans should take this into account. [passage omitted]

Sooner or later, whether because of demography, strategy, or detente, or because of the trouble in the occupied territories...[Hassan changes thought] All this constitutes a situation that will make the United States a little more vigilant concerning its own interests in the region. One must be patient and let matters take their course. [passage omitted]

[Ben Zghiba] [Words indistinct] Morocco is of course one of the Third World countries. The economic and structural crisis existing in the world today (?which affect) the economies of the Third World directly must have had some effect on Morocco, one way or another. What are the measures, or the strategy, which has been drawn up by Your Majesty's Goverment to confront these (?effects) and the continuation of national development in Morocco?

[Hassan] In fact, the basic problem in Morocco is that its first and basic resource is agriculture. It still has the the problem of the weather to deal with. But Morocco undertook to combat this defect in that it decided to exploit all its water resources—rain water, water wells, underground water, and more so that it can provide for 50 million inhabitants on its soil after the year 2000. This is due to the fact that in the year 2010, Morocco's population will be 50 million. Thanks be to God, we undertook a gigantic work in this connection; now we know exactly what quantities of water are available to us, whether under the ground or in storage, and what will be stored with the average rainfalls between a good and bad year. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Majesty, my collegue has spoken about agriculture; I am going to speak about the possibilities of exchanges between Algeria and Morocco. We know that negotiations are under way in bilateral commissions which study projects. We also know that there are happy precedents with the treaty of fraternity and concord between Algeria and Tunisia, which permitted the development of border zones between the two countries. Could this example of regional development be followed in Algerian-Moroccan relations, and what sector, what are the priorities for Algerian-Moroccan cooperation?

[Hassan] [passage omitted] There are plenty of things to be done in this sphere. The gas pipeline or iron mines in Tindouf. In this field, studies are very advanced, but they were halted between (1963 and 1974), between 1965 and 1973 these project files were seriously studied. I know that President Chadli has given strict and clear instructions long before we normalized our relations not to lose these project files and since then for the Moroccan-Algerian community files to be reactivated, particularly regarding the gas pipeline. Because if we manage to ensure the passage of gas into Spain, then Algeria would have its own weight in Europe, a unique one, because it will enable Europe to have a certain independence vis-a-vis the gas from Siberia. Europe would then be able to breathe a little more.

To achieve this, the pipeline must pass by Morocco and pass by Gibraltar. I believe this is an example of integration and help for development, not just at the border areas, not just at a horizontal level. It can be done vertically. I think that the project files are available. Thanks be to God. There are important, amibitious, and realistic files waiting to be revived and for us to carry out these projects. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Further Reportage on Nile Flooding

40 Reported Dead

EA1208175188 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Excerpt] The Sudanese Government said today that nearly 40 people had died and 83,000 homes were destroyed when floods swept through Khartoum and neighboring areas. Officials warned that further disaster could strike as the level of the water in the Nile continues to rise.

83,000 Houses Destroyed

LD1208192988 Khartoum SUNA in French 1537 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Aug—About 83,240 houses were completely destroyed within the national capital (Khartoum, Omdurman and Khartoum North) following the torrential rains which devastated the country last week, an official source from the office of emergency operations has informed police headquarters. According to the AL-USBU' daily which published the information, 26 schools were completely destroyed and 96 more have almost collapsed. Another 315 schools are in danger of collapsing.

Nile Still Rising

EA1200193900 Khartoum SUNA in French 1556 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 12 Aug (SUNA)—The level of the Nile today rose to 16.06 cubic meters, that is, an increase of 0.8 cubic meters over yesterday's 15.98 cubic meters. It is worth recalling that the Nile's level reached 16.18 cubic meters on 12 August 1946, the heavest flood ever recorded by the river in recent years. [passage omitted]

Al-Mahdi Inspects Damage

EA1208202288 Khartoum SUNA in French 1559 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Aug—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi on Thursday made an inspection tour of the areas in Khartoum ravaged by heavy rains and floods. During the tour Mr al-Mahdi held a meeting with the commissioner of Khartoum and his colleagues. At the meeting Mr al-Mahdi [word indistinct] means of maintaining the [word indistinct] and building makeshift shelters for those whose homes have been destroyed by the rains.

Mr al-Mahdi appealed to the Sudanese people to unite in efforts to overcome the difficulties facing the country. He also stressed the importance of expediting the distribution of relief materials to the victims of the rains.

On the present bread shortage in Khartoum, Mr al-Mahdi issued instructions to the officials of the commissioner of Khartoum to solve the problem as quickly as possible. He also said that water and power services will soon be improved.

Central Region 'Disaster Area'

JN1308124388 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Medani, 13 Aug (SUNA)—Sudan's Central Region has been declared a disaster area in the aftermath of the heavy downpour and the threat posed by the overflowing Blue Nile to the surrounding villages.

'Uthman 'Abd al-Qadir, the Central Region's governor, yesterday submitted to the prime minister and the higher relief committee a report about the damage and potential threat to the stricken cities and villages and on urgent needs for relief supplies, medicines, and tents.

The governor urged all government agencies as well as popular bodies to throw in all their resources. He lauded the efforts of the regular forces, Al-Jazirah project, the Ministry of Irrigation, the road corporation, the Sanitary Blue Nile project, and the Refugees Administration in the Central Region, which have placed all their resources at the Central Region government's disposal.

Yesterday, the Central Region's governor made an inspection tour of the Sinjah area, familiarizing himself with the conditions of those whose districts have been inundated. He visited the Abu Jihar District where seven villages experienced torrential rains. The governor instructed that food supplies, petrol, medicines, and tents be made available to the victims in the Sinjah area. He approved 150,000 Sudanese pounds for the harder hit districts.

Meanwhile, an emergency committee has been formed in the southern Al-Jazirah area to deal with the aftermath of the floods and downpour. Subcommittees were also formed in the area, and an evaluation was made of the extent of damage and relief requirements.

Floodwaters Rise

NC1308140088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Aug (MENA)—Rain fell anew on the Sudanese capital last night and continued for 4 hours at dawn today, accompanied by a storm that uprooted trees and demolished some houses affected by last week's floods.

The capital's streets and suburbs have again been inundated, but there has been no loss of life as a result of the new downpour.

Thus far 70 planes carrying relief aid have arrived in Sudan from fraternal and friendly states and the Saudi Government has decided to establish an airlift to provide Khartoum with aid, including 100 jeeps and a number of electricity generators and batteries.

The citizens are suffering because relief aid has been slow in reaching them, while the health and living conditions in some areas, especially in Omdurman, have deteriorated.

A member of the popular committee responsible for the distribution of aid has stated that the situation portends imminent disaster in view of the delay in distributing aid to the citizens.

Major General 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Amin, governor of the Northern Region, has declared the region a disaster area.

People arriving from the Northern Region have described conditions there as extremely bad, because food supplies could not be transported.

Floods and downpours have also swept through some villages in the northern part of the Blue Nile Directorate, while the waters of the Blue and White Niles are rising daily, posing a real threat to neighboring areas. The water level behind the Sannar Dam has reached its highest point, and the water it is discharging has reached 644 cubic meters, compared to 618 cubic meters 2 days ago. The water level in Khartoum has reached 16.6 meters compared to 15.98 meters 2 days ago.

'Uthman 'Abd al-Qadir, governor of the Central Region, has declared that region a disaster area.

Commentary Says Flood Aid To Benefit Al-Mahdi

EA1408214688 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Station commentary from the "In a Sudanese Street" program]

[Excerpts] Today in the series I want to talk to people in the Sudanese Streets about the state of emergency announced by Sadiq al-Mahdi and Al-Turabi. Sudanese streets and Sudanese people: The disaster has come home. People who are far from the capital, namely, Khartoum, the Khartoum of the sons of the country as they say, these days the rains have filled. [sentence as heard] Cartons and gunnysacks in which the toiling people lived have been washed away by the waters at Umm Baddah, Haj Yusuf, Kalaklah, Darushab, and so on. But the bad thing is that Sadiq al-Mahdi and Al-Turabi immediately imposed a state of emergency on the country, claiming that there is war in the south, drought in the west, and floods in Khartoum.

Well, what is the connection between the state of emergency and the floods? Do Al-Mahdi and Al-Turabi have the strength to stop the rain? Do they have the strength to tell God that this is all wrong or do they want to impose Shari'a because of the floods? Al-Sadiq and Al-Turabi should ask themselves what they did to the country before the state of emergency was announced. Have they forgotten the corruption and the thievery which they indulge in? If Al-Sadiq and Al-Turabi were not bashful they would have told the Sudanese people: These floods were brought by John Garang. In actual fact they have said this, since they linked the state of emergency with the war. But nothing surprises the Sudanese people regarding the regime in Khartoum, whether it comes on behalf of Al-Sadiq or directly from him. [passage omitted]

This is the truth. Let us go back and see why Al-Sadiq announced a state of emergency in connection with the floods. In an situation like this, he should not have announced a state of emergency and called for assistance. But Al-Sadiq has an objective. As many people have noted, he went empty handed to the places where there were distressed people.

The relief assistance will not reach the people. This is the proof: He said this and he implemented it. The assistance is being distributed by the Army. Al-Sadiq's state of emergency is for Al-Sadiq's benefit. The people cannot say anything if this relief assistance does not reach them since it is Al-Sadiq and his Army which distribute relief, blankets, and so on. He controls the emergency.

The international organizations which donated this assistance are unhappy because they have seen places in the capital where people are without tents, food, and so on. The assistance has gone; it has gone to Al-Sadiq and his ministers and it is also an opportunity for him to entrench and form the Ansar Army in which he works. If this assistance provides an opportunity to build the Mahdiyah state why should this not be a God-given opportunity for the Sudanese people to overthrow Al-Sadiq? [passage omitted]

Sudanese streets and Sudanese masses: Al-Sadiq should not scare you; you have your rights. Whether there are rains or floods you should hold demonstrations. You cannot die for nothing. You should go in this mud to Al-Mahdi's house and demand your rights. This state of emergency was announced by Al-Sadiq in order to silence you, but the heroic Sudanese people are able [to rise against] any civilian or military dictator. Now, masses of our Sudanese people, go to it.

Rebel Forces Capture Bakuri Garrison 26 Jul

EA1308162688 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Combined SPLA forces from Kashshah, Namus, Task Force One, Petrol, Qaysan, Bilpam and some task forces under the direct operational command of alternate Commander Garang Mabil Deng and the overall command of Commander Salva Kiir Mayar Dit attacked and overran an enemy garrison at Bakuri near Damazin on the 26th July 1988.

Correspondent for the Radio SPLA in the area says that a number of enemy troops were killed and wounded. The remnants ran to Damazin in disarray. Others discarded their firearms and military clothes and put on some civilian clothes to camouflage themselves. One Majirus truck No 56083 was captured and later destroyed. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Official Responds to UN Peace Proposals

LD1408092188 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0630 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Finding a lasting and just solution to the Western Sahara conflict is currently the focus of UN-sponsored efforts. Last Thursday UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar handed a peaceful plan for solving the Western Sahara problem to the Moroccan and Saharan delegations and called on them to respond before 1 September.

The first response from the Polisario Front was given by Bechir Mustapha Sayyid, head of the Polisario delegation in New York. He described the Perez de Cuellar plan as a general document with general principles, which take into consideration Morocco's interests and neglect those of the victims, the Saharan people.

The Saharan official reiterated the need for direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario to find a final solution to the Western Sahara issue in accordance with UN Resolution 427 and OAU Resolution 104.

Kuwait

Arms Deal To Pass Congress 'Unimpeded'

LD1408085688 Kuwait KUNA in English 0803 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 14 (KUNA)—Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad said Sunday that the arms deal with the United States will pass unimpeded by the congress following slight modifications which meet with Kuwait requirements.

The deal will pass without any complications from the Congress after some slight modifications, which will have no effect on its capability and efficiency, are entered into the package, he told the Kuwait daily AL-WATAN in a frontpage statement carried today.

The minister said the modifications introduced to the deal meet with the requirements of Kuwait since the Maverick G type missiles attached to the F 18 are suitable for surface-to-air and air-to-air purposes, that is they can be used against ships, armoured vehicles and tanks.

Shaykh Nawwaf predicted the United States will adhere to its commitment as regards the arms package and start delivery on time and according to the timetable agreed to.

Kuwait aspires to acquire the best defensive weapons in the world despite the country's deep conviction it shall always remain a defensive country not motivated to enter in any conflict with another country, the minister pointed out.

In this connection, the defense minister said there are specialised units in the Kuwait Army that record the country's needs to a degree that at times surprises the arms producing nations.

Amir Receives Bahraini Foreign Minister

LD1508103388 Kuwait KUNA in English 0948 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 15 (KUNA)—H.H. the amir Monday received Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah who conveyed to him a message from the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh Issa ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

The message, which tackled bilateral ties and developments in the Arabian Gulf region, was relayed in the presence of Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah and the Bahraini ambassador to Kuwait.

Shaykh Mubarak who arrived here earlier today, was also received by H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah in the presence of Shaykh Sabah and the Bahraini ambassador.

Oman

Egypt's 'Abd al-Majid on Bilateral Ties, Gulf War

JN1208163288 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Aug

[Text] His Excellency Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has praised Egyptian-Omani relations and described them as distinguished, strong, firm, and historical. He said Egypt does not forget Oman's stands and constant support under all circumstances. He added that the relations between the two leaderships and two peoples are progressing continuously. In an exclusive statement to the OMANI NEWS AGENCY, his excellency added he carries a message from his majesty the sultan to his brother President Husni Mubarak and that he conveyed to his majesty a written message from President Mubarak when he had the honor of meeting his majesty in Salalah.

His excellency praised the wisdom and farsightedness of His Majesty Sultan Qabus. He said the Sultanate's policy under his majesty has earned it the respect and appreciation of everyone. He added: We are proud that this policy is based on firm grounds and principles. His excellency affirmed that Oman has its position, status, and role in this world, especially in this area to which all of us belong.

His Excellency Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid praised the Sultanate's huge progress and great development. He expressed admiration for the Sultan Qabus sports complex in Bushar, indicating that this sports facility which he visited during his current visit to the Sultanate confirms the extent of attention that state gives to serving youths and developing the Omani people.

Answering a question on Iraq and Iran's acceptance of the the UN secretary general's cease-fire announcement and direct negotiations—and how these negotiations could be supported to reach a settlement that satisfies the two parties to the war and reinforces security and stability in the region—his excellency said that Egypt strongly welcomed and supported this move. He indicated that the parties' acceptance of the announcement is very wise and sound.

He expressed the conviction that the two sides to the war are willing to resolve the dispute. He said that if matters settle in this region, it would benefit not only the two countries, but the entire region. His excellency added that this orientation must be supported and consolidated. He stressed the need for good will and desire to overcome all difficulties after all the bloody events and huge material and human losses witnessed by the region.

In his statement to ONA, His Excellency 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid answered a question on what impact the end of the war between Iraq and Iran would have on the prospects for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

He said: The end of the Iraq-Iran war will ease tension in the region. We must think in the same direction and work toward negotiations. Israel must respond to the common demand for an international peace conference in which all parties concerned take part, including the PLO.

He added: We demand this from Israel and consider an international peace conference the framework within which negotiations can be held between the concerned parties. Therefore, what Iraq and Iran have done should serve as an example to be followed to reach a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem and the Palestine question.

Answering the question of whether his excellency expects the withdrawal of foreign fleets from the Gulf after the cessation of the Iraq-Iran war, his excellency said: These fleets are here because of the war. If negotiations between Iraq and Iran lead to peace, as we expect, God willing, there will be no need for these fleets in the region.

PDRY

Public Health Minister Returns From Sudan

EA1208160088 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1238 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Dr Sa'id Sharaf Badr, minister of public health and chairman of the Yemeni Red Crescent Society, returned to Aden this morning from brotherly Sudan, where he had delivered the first shipment of relief provided by the PDRY to the brotherly Sudanese people. He had also conveyed the condolences of our people and of our country's political leadership on the material losses sustained by Sudan as a result of the rains and floods this week.

The brother minister of health met Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Sudan's prime minister, and conveyed a verbal message from his brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and prime minister, inviting him to visit Democratic Yemen. The invitation was accepted and its date will be fixed later.

Yesterday the brother minister of public health also met Brother Awhaj Muhammad Musa, Sudan's minister of health, with whom he discussed health cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

It is worth noting that a second shipment of food donated by the Yemeni people was sent this morning to assist the Sudanese people in overcoming the disaster.

Qatar

Amir Receives Written Message From Al-Qadhdhafi

JN1308120488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Doha, 13 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, has received a written message from Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the Arab situation and bilateral relations. Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, Libyan secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, conveyed the message during a meeting with the amir this morning.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister.

The Libyan official is on a regional tour. He has so far visited Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar.

Envoy Departs

JN1308193288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1850 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Doha, 13 Aug (WAKH)—Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, Libyan secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, left Doha today following a 2-day visit to Qatar within the framework of a tour of the region's states. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Envoy Delivers Al-Qadhdhafi Message to King

LD1508021388 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2126 GMT 14 aug 88

[Text] Jeddah—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a message from His Excellency the Libyan President [as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by His Excellency Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, the secretary of the General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, when the latter was received by the king at his office at Al-Salam Palace this evening.

The audience was attended by His Excellency Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers, Libyan charge d'affaires Maylud al-Uraybi, and Hassunah al-Shawish, Libyan charge d'affaires to Kuwait.

The secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison had arrived in Jeddah earlier this evening and was received on arrival by Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers; the Libyan charge d'affaires to the Kingdom; and a representative from the Royal Protocol Department.

Bahraini Premier Leaves After 'Successful' Surgery

LD1408132588 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1211 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 14 Aug (SPA)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the Bahraini prime minister, left Jeddah this afternoon for home after his recovery from the successful operation at Riyadh RAF Hospital. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Libyan Envoy Arrives, Makes Statement

JN1308201488 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Aug (WAKH)—Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, Libyan secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liasion, this evening arrived in Abu Dhabi from Doha within the framework of his tour of a number of the region's states. He was received by Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and a number of high ranking ministry officials.

In a statement to WAM, the Libyan minister said that he is carrying a written message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message deals with bilateral relations and issues of mutual concern.

He said he hopes his tour in the region will achieve the best desired results for the sake of joint Arab action.

Delivers Al-Qadhdhafi Letter

JN1408112388 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Aug (WAKH)—UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a letter from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the current Arab state of affairs, ways of enhancing joint Arab action at this stage, and bilateral relations.

'Abdallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, Libyan secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, delivered the letter when Shaykh Zayid received him here today.

Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, Foreign Ministry undersecretary, attended the meeting.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Receives USSR Envoy, Gorbachev Message

JN1408153588 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Brother President leader Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, secretary general of the General People's Congress, has received in his office at the Presidential Palace Karen Nersesovich Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department and CPSU Central Committee candidate member, who conveyed to the brother president leader a message from Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The message deals with relations between the two friendly countries and the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas. The message also contains the USSR leadership's congratulations to the brother president leader on his reelection for the current presidential term and also on the success of the Consultative Council's elections.

During the meeting, they reviewed relations and cooperation between the General People's Congress and the CPSU. Dr Brutents hailed our country's principled stands on various international issues, led by the issue of world peace. He voiced his admiration for the great development and democratic achievements with which he was acquainted. These achievements were realized for our people under the wise leadership of the brother president leader.

Brutents also lauded the growing relations between our country and the USSR in favor of the common interests of both friendly countries.

Attending the meeting were Brothers 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member; Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; Dr Ahmad al- Asbahi, Consultative Council member and secretary of the Standing Committee; Colonel ('Ali 'Utrub), head of the civil registration and records authority and member of the third general conference of the General People's Congress; members of the accompanying delegation; and the USSR charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Briefs

Ambassadors Present Credentials

Brother President leader Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received at the Presidential Palace this morning the credentials of Charles Dunbar as U.S. ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, Dr (Gerfried Yoharo) as Austria's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, Pekka Mati Harttila as Finland's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, and Abdou Malam Moussa as Niger's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the YAR. [Summary] [*JN1408161888 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Aug 88*]

Saddam Husayn Speaks to Council of Ministers

JN1408200888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1628 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said that Iraq proposes a theory for life and the Iranian rulers propose another theory for life—whose concepts conflict with life. We do not propose our theory to the Iranians but to the Iraqis, while the Iranians propose theirs to a wider world outside Iran. They also consider themselves the masters of that theory and feel it is their duty to spread it to the world, not by example but through armed force.

Chairing the Council of Ministers, his excellency said that the Iranian Army not only failed to achieve its expansionist goals, but was also deprived of its capability and was destroyed at a time when Iraq's military capability increased because Iraq's military capability is not a technical issue in the traditional sense of military capability. Due to this consideration, the length of time, and because it is based on a theory for life as we have said, the Iranian rulers' theory was defeated and your theory won.

The president continued: By achieving a cease-fire and total peace through negotiations, we have to exert more efforts without making the cease-fire or the peace agreement, if they are achieved, a period of rest at the expense of work. Our rest is psychological, not temporal. Because it is psychological, work is the greatest antidote and the greatest builder. Following is the text of the speech:

Victory has been felt for some time within our souls, but in practice, it was achieved and has become tangible for the far and the near. It was also recognized by the international community and Iran's recognition was adopted by the international community. Your country's gain is not only represented in winning the war, but in your initiative to call for peace after winning the war. If you had not won the war, you would not have achieved peace. From the beginning, that was clear to us. Peace can be achieved if Iraq wins the war. The concept of winning the war centered on how to abort Iran's plans to win the war. When Iran fails to win the war and Iraq is able to defeat Iran's aggression on the borders as a result of two central factors between the two sides of the war, Iraq wins the war because Iraq wants to preserve itself and prevent a total defeat of the Arab nation through Iraq's defeat. Iran wants to expand at the expense of not only the Arab nation, but also at the expense of humanity. The Arab nation's forward position and the Arab homeland's gate is Iraq.

My brothers, the victory is not only a military victory in two concepts. We cannot describe it as a military victory because of the length and essence of the dispute. The duel has been a lengthy one—it lasted 8 years. As a result, the duel made every aspect of life show its capability as well as the military capability, role, and organization. There have also been contradictions in the nature of the duel. Iraq proposes a theory for life and Iran's rulers propose another theory for life that conflicts with life. We did not propose our theory to the Iranians but to the Iraqis, while the Iranians propose their theory to a wider world than Iran. They consider themselves the masters of that theory and that they are duty-bound to spread it to the world, not through radiation and building an example, but through armed force.

When they fail, they are defeated, and when Iraq makes them fail, Iraq achieves victory. This was our theory from the beginning. It was not aimed at propaganda and securing courage. It was in our minds and souls that we would achieve victory. What happened is more than the description we have made at the beginning. We remained confident until the last moment that the Iranian military power did not only fail to achieve its goals, but was also deprived of its capability and destroyed at a time when Iraq's military power increased because Iraq's military capability is not a technical issue in the traditional sense. Due to that consideration, the length of time, and because it is based on the theory of life as we have said, the Iranian rulers' theory was defeated and your theory was victorious.

The whole world said that Iraq was victorious militarily. It could not conceal that fact, but continued to aspire to the peace decision by Baghdad, not by Tehran, the United Nations, or the Security Council because the Security Council's resolution died 1 year ago. Iran had to save the resolution within 2 months although it did not approve it on that day. It had to approve what you wrote on paper. Two months at most, in accordance with our plan and our capability. Success is from Almighty God.

We wanted peace. When we say we want peace, we want to place our country on the course which we have worked out, as we said from the beginning. Your country has decided to achieve peace. Iraq, and not the Security Council, the UN secretary general, or Iran, chose peace. All of them can move within our framework because when we announced our message on 6 August, the cease-fire arrangements were made on 8 August. Thanks to God. We will not be conceited or unbalanced. We always remember our principles in dealing with any person, even if he is a foreigner, a non-Iraqi, or an enemy.

They have caused great harm and are still causing it. They deserve every humiliation, but we will not humiliate them. God will humiliate them. In the Al-Faw statement, in the communique of communiques, and on the day of days, we behaved in a way free of any arrogance despite the tragedies caused to the Iraqis by the Iranians over the past 8 years of war. This would have been honored by any analyst who saw our victories. Your victory was not only a military victory, although the military factor is the most prominent one in your capability in that victory. Yet, we should remember these facts for more work and efforts in all walks of life. As we said, the basic law in life is peace and our

responsibilities and authority are aimed at serving the people in order to secure present and future stability for the people and their coming generations

By achieving a cease-fire and total peace through negotiations, we have to exert more efforts without making the cease-fire or the peace agreement, if they are achieved, a period of rest at the expense of work. Our rest is a psychological, not a temporal one. Because it is a psychological one, work is the greatest antidote and the greatest builder. More effective work provides healthy psychological conditions when that work is aimed at serving the people and the nation. We have always believed that the most active and accurate people are the best among us. This is a basic principle in the Iraqi Government's action.

UN Representative on Cease-Fire, Negotiations
JN1208145688 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Aug

[Interview with UN Representative 'Ismat Kittani by Huda Tawfiq in New York—date not given]

[Tawfiq] On the 25th of this month, direct negotiations will be held for the first time between Iraq and Iran. Will the Iraqi delegation extend their hands to shake them with the Iranian delegation?

[Kittani] Iraq's hand has been extended for a long time. We have been waiting for them at the UN Security Council for 8 years and we have been waiting for a year for them to accept the binding Resolution 598. Our hands are still extended. It is the other party who refused to extend a hand of peace. We are awaiting it. What we are awaiting, and the question we want an answer to, is: Does Iran, like Iraq, truly want a comprehensive, certain peace which secures stability for both peoples and noninterference in the internal affairs of the other party, each people preserving their rights inside their borders, or not? This is the question. We want nothing other than that. The entire world is also eager to know whether the Iranian regime wants that. After this, the process would be easier and the road to peace shorter.

[Tawfiq] Ambassador 'Ismat Kittani, what is your perception regarding the negotiations? Would they be long? The war has taken several years. How long does it take to establish peace?

[Kittani] The previous reply answers this question too. If Iran has a positive will, as Iraq and the Arab side as a whole does, the time to achieve peace will be relatively short. However, if Iran wants to be involved in deception and trickery, and if it is working for a state of no peace and no war or for a truce after which it can resume attacks on Iraq and the rest of Arab countries, the road will be hard and peace far from being achieved.

[Tawfiq] Your Excellency Ambassador, do you think the cease-fire will be respected by the two sides?

[Kittani] I think so. We will see. However, this is the responsibility of the UN Security Council and the United Nations. We believe that the cease-fire and international supervision on it will be effective on 20 August. Any violation or claim of a violation will be presented in a report to the secretary general and through him to the Security Council, which has the authority to decide in this regard.

[Tawfiq] If negotiations proceed well, do you expect a resumption of diplomatic relations between Iraq and Iran?

[Kittani] I am not a jurist. However, I believe that the diplomatic relations were severed only recently. The Iraqi diplomatic mission in Tehran and the Iranian diplomatic mission in Baghdad remained for 6 or 7 years [since the war began]. There is no problem about the resumption of diplomatic relations. Naturally, among the initial results of reaching a genuine peace between us and Iran is resuming normal and diplomatic relations between the two neighboring countries.

[Tawfiq] Is the Algiers agreement still in force for Iraq?

[Kittani] We in Iraq, from the highest to lowest levels, refused to discuss any issue related to the essence of negotiations before sitting with the Iranians face to face and to discussing these points with them in the presence of the secretary general. Allow me to comment....

[Tawfiq, interrupting] The resolution says withdrawal to the international borders. Will the definition of international borders be a problem?

[Kittani] I do not believe there is a problem regarding withdrawal to the internationally recognized borders. This is the text of the resolution. This is unless Iran creates a new problem. There is no problem regarding borders.

[Tawfiq] Your Excellency, now that Iraq will be in a state of peace, would this give Iraq greater force for resolving the Palestine question, especially during the current circumstances?

[Kittani] We never abandon the Palestinian people and the PLO, their sole, legitimate leadership. Our stand in this regard is that Iraq supports all that the Palestinians in the first place and the other countries that have borders with Israel agree on. Iraq supports the Palestinian people and their blessed uprising in particular. Iraq also supports this people's sole, legitimate representative. Undoubtedly, Iraq's resources will be further devoted to reconstruction and peace instead of to the war which has been imposed on Iraq for 8 years.

[Tawfiq] Did the long war reveal new friends for Iraq?

[Kittani] Very much so. Actually, the war is a test and criterion for international relations. Nothing can expose states' intentions more clearly and quickly than waging a fateful battle like the ones we have waged. Iraq will forever remember those who stood alongside us and those who did not. I have no doubt that our memory in this regard will be long.

Ramadan Urges Al-Asad To Leave 'Political Arena'

JN1508104088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Aug (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has advised the traitors of the Arab nation like the slave of charlatans, Hafiz al-Asad, to completely leave the political arena. Ramadan said: Those traitors who sought alliance with the devil against Iraq throughout the 8 years of the war should leave the political arena after their peoples have exposed their treachery and condemned them. Addressing Syrian students and youths today, Ramadan said that the servant of charlatans, Hafiz al-Asad, sided with the Khomeyniite aggressors, turned his back on the Golan after handing it to the Zionist enemy, and plotted against the Palestinian cause. Therefore, Ramadan said, he has no right to speak about the Arab nation's interests because he betrayed all the nation's decisive issues.

Syria's students expressed, during the meeting, their congratulations and joy for the Iraqi victory over the Iranian aggression and destruction of the Khomeyniite conspiracy.

Daily on Al-Asad 'Treason'

JN1408095488 Baghdad INA in English 0915 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 14, INA—The Iraqi daily AL-THAWRAH expected that the Syrian regime will face the most difficult stage in its history after Iraq's victory in its holy defensive war. The daily organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist party, said in an editorial today that the hollow slogans, playing on ropes, blackmailing and terrorism will not benefit the Syrian regime. AL-THAWRAH newspaper went on to say that the treason of Hafiz al-Asad who was called by the daily "the slave of imposters", and his incapability and crimes were unveiled by the Iraqi victory before the Syrian Arab people and all the Arab nation.

It added that the regime in Damascus went further in adopting the trend of treason and collaboration with the enemies of the Arab nation, the Khomeinists and the Zionists, and in using the Arab legitimate interests and rights as blackmailing cards. The daily said that Hafiz al-Asad was disappointed and defeated because he sustained the defeat with his allies, the rulers of Iran. Hafiz al-Asad cannot face the effects of the Iraqi victory and its impacts in the Arab arena in general and inside Syria in particular, the Iraqi daily concluded.

UN Mission Reports Iranian Shelling of Positions

JN1208200488 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] UN, 12 Aug (INA)—Iranian forces continued to shell Iraqi positions in a number of operation sectors between 1800 [1400 GMT] yesterday, Thursday, and 1800 today, Friday, according to Baghdad time. This was announced by the Iraqi mission to the United Nations in a press statement issued in New York this evening.

The statement says that the Iranian forces fired 19 howitzer shells, 4 mortar shells, and 3 tank shells at the Iraqi positions in the I Army Corps sector and they fired 142 howitzer shells, 201 mortar shells, and 51 small shells at the Iraqi positions in the III Army Corps sector. The Iranian forces also fired 31 mortar shells and 8 small shells at the Iraqi positions in the V Army Corps sector and they fired 116 mortar shells, 139 howitzer shells, and 72 small shells at the Iraqi positions in the II Army Corps sector.

Opposition Reports Iranian Battle Losses

JN1408134888 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 14, INA—Mojahedin-e Khalq Iranian opposition organization said that the commander of Khomeyni Guards in Eslamabad [Shahabad] was killed by the National Liberation Army during "The Eternal Light" operations. Mojahedin radio, organ of Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, reported, in a broadcast monitored here today, that "Azadi" was killed in fierce clashes that took place in Eslamabad on last July 25, when the town was a target of the Iranian National Liberation Army Fire. The radio also reported that the commander of "Al-Hur" Battalion of the "127 Muqdad" Brigade and the mobilization commander of MSN [expansion not given] Liberation Army by the end of last July resulted in liberating the towns of Karan and Eslamabad and inflicted upon Khomeyni Guards huge losses estimated at 40 thousand dead and injured. [sentence as received]

Rabin, Sharon, Military Source Brief Cabinet
TA1408104788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this morning told the Cabinet the incidents of Molotov cocktails being thrown in the territories has been cut by half due to the penalties being imposed. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] It was the stiff penalties, such as the demolition of houses, which had deterred the Arab militants from throwing firebombs in the territories, Rabin said. But he conceded that the petition by the Civil Rights Association to the High Court of Justice to restrict or delay the demolitions had posed a problem, and the defense establishment would have to wait for the court's decision. Rabin said that in the coming months, the security forces would have to concentrate their attention on the local committees behind the Palestinian uprising.

Minister Ari'el Sharon asked about the incident in Hebron in which all the windows in City Hall were smashed by unknown persons who arrived in a jeep, and about why the military prosecutor had recommended a reduced sentence for the Arab woman in the village of Bayta who threw a rock at Romam Aldubi in April, seriously injuring him.

The ministers were also briefed by a military source on the latest developments in the PLO, including the possibility that a Palestinian state or government-in-exile might be declared, and about Yasir 'Arafat's forthcoming appearances before the United Nations and the European Parliament.

Trade and Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon briefed the Cabinet on his recent visit to Romania. The Cabinet continued its discussion on the country's road infrastructure.

There was none of the bickering which characterized last week's meeting of the Inner Cabinet. The only tiff was between two Likud colleagues—Housing Minister David Levi and Transport Minister Hayim Corfu—over budgets for road building. Levi questioned Corfu's requests and declared that there must be coordination between the two ministries. When Corfu tried to answer, Prime Minister Shamir refused to give him the floor. Why quarrel in public, the prime minister said. [end recording]

Qalqilyah Violence Discussed
TA1408152388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] One of the issues debated by the Cabinet today after the defense minister's report on the situation in the territories was the town of Qalqilyah. One of its suburbs is inhabited by former Gazans who stir up violent action against Jews who are forced to travel on the town's roads to go to work. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Minister Ari'el Sharon demanded that measures be taken to put an end to the harassment of Jews, noting that Qalqilyah has a 70-year history of a venomous approach toward Jews and is infamous for shedding Jewish blood.

Security Sources See 2 Directions in PLO Thinking
TA1408152188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Security sources believe that the PLO is split over what political steps to take next. The intransigent faction headed by George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah adheres to the line advocating no new political steps, such as the declaration of a Palestinian government-in-exile or an independent state. The splinter that embraces a more conciliatory approach, headed by Bassam Abu Sharif, supports such moves to please the United States.

Our political correspondent reports that in the opinion of the security sources, the Unified National Command of the Uprising in the territories is trying to revert to actual political moves while engaging in violent acts.

New Measures To Stop Foreign Funds to Territories
TA1408170088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] The defense establishment began introducing new procedures to prevent the transfer of funds from foreign delegations and political elements to the territories. In coordination with the Foreign Ministry, the defense establishment has notified foreign bodies such as UNRWA that the transfer of sums larger than 400 dinars per person in 2 months without the authorization of the Civil Administration will be considered illegal. An arrangement with the Amman-Cairo Bank has been reached, according to which anyone receiving money from the bank will have to have it registered in his name. Even so, the sum cannot exceed 400 dinars, or some $1,500.

Our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat has learned that the Civil Administration is planning to increase taxation and that it will soon start checking vehicles and changing license plates in Judaea and Samaria as well.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1630 GMT on 14 Aug adds that "The defense establishment is about to give first priority to stopping the activities of the popular committees operating in various parts of the territories. Our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat has learned that the Civil Administration, in coordination with the IDF, is planning to prevent elements identified with the PLO from taking municipal or administrative positions."]

Measures Prepared To Curb PLO in Territories

TA1408191388 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] The defense establishment is presently taking measures to curb attempts by pro-PLO groups in the territories who wish to fill the gap created after Jordan's disengagement from its links with Judaea and Samaria. In accordance with a decision adopted by defense elements, stepped-up activity will be launched already in the next few days against the popular committees that have been set up in many places in the territories. Our correspondent Gil Sadan reports from the studio:

The idea is to strike at the popular committees, or the bodies that have cropped up by the hundreds all over the territories and are intended to serve as the nuclei for a substitute self-rule to replace the Israeli administration.

The defense establishment maintains that by and large, these popular committees are actually PLO branches. At the moment, they form the main framework for the continuation of the uprising.

Although among those popular committees there are also recognized charity organizations, by and large these are pressure groups consisting of PLO supporters who are now trying to take over institutions abandoned by King Husayn.

Many of the detainees who were locked up in the past few months are members of the popular committees. This evening it became apparent that the inclination is to step up the struggle against these groups even further, in other words, increase the number of detainees.

The prevailing view in the Civil Administration is that if Jordan imposes restrictions on agricultural exports from the territories to it, the economic plight in Judaea and Samaria will worsen. Israel cannot force Jordan to absorb the crops from the territories, but at the same time it must protect the Israeli farmers from cheap competition by farmers from the Hebron Hills and the (Jiftlik) fields.

Two days ago a meeting was held in East Jerusalem in which Arab activists discussed ways of taking over the Jordanian bodies that had to date handled export procedures. All the difficulties notwithstanding, the defense elements are determined not to allow bodies affiliated with the PLO to gain control over economic power centers in the territories. Therefore, the introduction of funds to the region had been subjected to further limitations over the last few days. Various international bodies, including volunteer organizations and welfare agencies, have been told very clearly and unambiguously that the inhabitants of the territories will be forbidden to receive more than $1,000 within a 2-month period.

Gaza Closure Said Part of 'Comprehensive Plan'

TA1508051688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe has learned from defense establishment sources that the closure of the Gaza Strip is part of a comprehensive plan involving action aimed at restoring peace in the territories. The sources reiterate that the increase in the number of disturbances in the Gaza Strip is related to the arson committed on a hut in Or Yehuda in which two Gaza workers met their death. Here is the report:

The Arab inhabitants of the territories cannot conduct an intifada [uprising] deluxe, sources in the defense establishment say. It is inconceivable that the local inhabitants should call the shots for the IDF. The defense sources emphasize that the decision on a series of new measures was made in recent deliberations and is part of a comprehensive plan to take the initiative rather than leave the decision on when to take action in the hands of the inhabitants of the territories. These deliberations and resolutions were made prior to the firebomb attack yesterday evening.

Sources in the defense establishment say the IDF does not intend to put up with any violence whatsoever, and will not allow strikes to be staged at times set by the local inhabitants and stipulated in pamphlets. A series of measures which have already been enforced and additional measures to be taken by IDF troops in the future will bring the inhabitants to realize that they cannot conduct the uprising as they see fit. On the one hand, to strike according to the orders stipulated in the pamphlets, and to leave for work in Tel Aviv the next day, on the other.

The number of disturbances in the Gaza Strip increased over the last few days and a renewed escalation of the violence was feared. As may be recalled, the uprising in the Gaza Strip began 8 months ago. Since then there have been ups and downs in the waves of violence, but the area had recently been quiet and security elements thought the IDF had managed to institute peace and order in most of the area. Defense sources were apprehensive that the latest wave of riots might spread from the Gaza Strip to Judaea and Samaria.

Arab sources in the Gaza Strip told security sources that the reason for the disturbances is the arson committed on a hut in Or Yehuda in which two Gazans met their death and a third was seriously injured. Speaking at yesterday's Cabinet session, defense sources said they believed that in addition to the incident of the Or Yehuda hut, tension in the area had been exacerbated by the Muslim new year marked yesterday and the sermons delivered over the weekend in Gaza Strip mosques.

This is the second time since the beginning of the uprising in the territories that a general curfew has been imposed on the Gaza Strip. A 3-day curfew was imposed in the Gaza Strip prior to Land Day, but clamping a general curfew on the Gaza Strip until decided otherwise is an unprecedented move.

The IDF spokesman's announcement says a general curfew on the entire Gaza Strip will remain in effect from 2200 yesterday until further notice. Laborers working in Israel will be allowed to enter the Gaza Strip at times to be stipulated by the Military Government. Media coverage of the area will be allowed only by permission of the IDF spokesman and with the escort of IDF officers. The decision on reopening the Gaza Strip will be made according to circumstances.

Khalaf's Statement Called 'Verbal Trickery'

TA1508042988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Reactions to statements by Yasir 'Arafat's deputy Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] that the PLO is ready to recognize and negotiate with Israel. The prime minister's office described the statements as verbal trickery. Director General Yosi Ben-Aharon said Israeli policy is not determined by PLO declarations.

The Foreign Ministry, on the other hand, said it is waiting to receive the text of the Abu Iyad interview in the French paper LE JOURNAL DE DIMANCHE before commenting. The Foreign Ministry did say if the statements attributed to Abu Iyad are accurate, they would be unprecedented by a senior PLO official.

The National Religious Party [NRP] said Abu Iyad's words are deceitful and amount to an international bribe. The NRP says the statements are a public relations exercise by a terrorist organization whose hands are stained with children's blood.

The Tehiya Party called on the government to place the territories under Israeli law and sovereignty before the United States surprises Israel by recognizing the PLO.

Rabin Interviewed on Measures in Gaza Strip

TA1508090188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Gid'on Zelinger and army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe—live]

[Text] [Zelinger] Good morning to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Rabin] Good morning.

[Zelinger] You presented statistics in yesterday's Cabinet session, and said that at long last calm is being felt in the territories and that the more stringent policy has begun to bear fruit. A few hours later came the firebomb attack in Gaza. Was it inevitable?

[Rabin] Without going into what I did or did not say in the Cabinet session—and your quotation is not accurate—I noted that we had been witnessing a continuation of the uprising in the territories and, over the past 2 months, an attempt to formalize it. What does that mean? It means that violence continued at a relatively low level, but through its actions over the past 2 to 3 weeks the IDF had managed to lower the number of firebomb attacks.

I realize that statistics are not always important, but results are. On the other hand, we have been witnessing efforts to formalize the uprising through the activities of the so-called local popular committees. I noted that we do not intend to put up with such a situation. I said that the violence is continuing at a low level, and I pointed out that a surge occasionally occurs due to some memorial day or in the wake of rumors spread about an incident, either real or imaginary, involving Arabs. I said that we intend to take action to lower the level of violence further, deal with the question of the local popular committees, and prevent PLO attempts to fill the limited vacuum left by Jordan in the wake of the practical measures it took regarding the population.

[Zelinger] We will soon hear a brief report about the PLO's so-called political initiatives. Concerning the specific issue of security in the territories, however, I would like to hear from you about the closure and curfew imposed last night. The Gaza Strip has been closed until further notice, which is an extraordinary move. It has been a long time since such a comprehensive curfew has been imposed.

[Rabin] The possibility of adopting such measures was raised in the weekly debate held in my office last Thursday. Our aim is to take further action to lower the level of violence, deal with the local popular committees, and prevent the PLO from infiltrating certain bodies.

[Zelinger] The territories have been up in arms, and last weekend was one of the worst. Could it be that somebody in the territories, perhaps the local leadership, is trying to boost the PLO's political initiatives by means of a new wave of demonstrations and terrorist attacks?

[Rabin] Indeed, incidents over the weekend reflect a certain resurgence, but they were no different from what happened on 9 August and on the 9th day of each month. We must take measures, some of them drastic, to keep violence at the level of the past 2 months, to deal with the local popular committees, and to prevent the PLO's attempts to infiltrate the territories. The measures taken

in Gaza should not be seen as a reaction to a specific incident, but as part of a series of actions which will yet be taken in other areas as well.

[Zelinger] We mentioned that the closure and the curfew were decided a few hours or even a few days prior to the firebomb attack. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe has been following the IDF's activities in the area and will pose the next question.

[Menashe] Mr Rabin, so far the army seems not to have been in control of the intifada [uprising], and that it has actually been steered by the rioters. It was they who decided when to take to the streets and when to strike.

[Rabin] Indeed, one must bear in mind that neither the State of Israel nor the IDF initiated the intifada. The intifada is the result of the activities of a large part of the Palestinian population in the territories, carried out through violent means. As I said, except for outbreaks on specific dates, there have hardly been any mass violent demonstrations in the last 2 or 3 months. The main activity has been to throw stones and firebombs. We started to take measures against the firebombs, which I hope will not be ruled out by the legal authorities. This week the High Court of Justice is scheduled to discuss one of the most effective measures, the immediate demolition of the houses of firebomb throwers—I am talking about those who are captured and are not shot in the course of the incident—which brought about the decrease in the number of firebomb incidents, notwithstanding our anguish over yesterday's attack in the Gaza Strip.

[Menashe] My question is: To what extent is the burning of the hut in Or Yehuda and the death of two Gaza laborers related to the increase in the number of disturbances in the Gaza Strip over the last few days?

[Rabin] More than a week ago extremist Muslim elements called for staging strikes and clashes yesterday. Decisions on action made by extremist Muslim elements in Gaza carry more weight than those by the PLO organizations. Therefore, we expected yesterday to be different than usual, and the IDF troops were prepared.

Unrelated to these events, as early as last Thursday we contemplated various steps, such as the closure of areas—be it parts of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, or a more comprehensive closure—as the first in a series of measures we intend to take in order to lower the level of violence within the parameters of the law. I emphasize: within the parameters of the law, and not according to Cabinet decisions, as somebody said earlier in your program. The limits are set by the law and not by Cabinet decisions.

[Menashe] To what extent will journalistic coverage be limited as a result of the closure of the area?

[Rabin] The area is closed. Coverage will be allowed only under the IDF spokesman's supervision.

[Zelinger] Thanks to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the guest of our morning program.

Cited on Khalaf Statement

TA1508065488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Menahem Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Friedman] What is the effect of the PLO leadership's talk about the possible establishment of a government-in-exile and a Palestinian state? Does it incite or calm the inhabitants of the territories?

[Rabin] I do not think any talk by any PLO leader outside the territories has any immediate effect on activities in the area, which I think are currently steered by the people in the field more than by those on the outside. I also have the feeling that the latter are trying to gauge the feeling of the people in the area. The situation today is that the Palestinians in the territories are the ones calling the shots, regardless of the PLO leadership outside the territories.

Incidentally, the call to stage a strike and clash with the security forces in the Gaza Strip on a date unrelated to those mentioned in the PLO pamphlets was issued by extreme Islamic elements in the Gaza area. The latter carry no less weight than the PLO, and in certain parts they are even more influential.

[Friedman] The way you see it, does yesterday's announcement by 'Arafat's deputy Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] that the PLO may soon amend various clauses in the Palestinian Charter, recognize the State of Israel, and hold direct peace negotiations, have some kind of positive significance as far as Israel is concerned?

[Rabin] I would not get worked up over the occasional statements of PLO men. I think the PLO was not expecting King Husayn's moves and it has not yet made up its mind what to do.

In any event, the activities of all the defense establishment branches aimed at attaining calm in the territories and enabling the civil apparatuses—the Civil Administration and the local authorities—to function, will not be affected by any talk of any PLO men outside the territories.

[Friedman] Should Israel's policy be affected by these statements?

[Rabin] I do not think the PLO is a partner at all to negotiations at this point. When it comes to our eastern border, the chance of arriving at peace, if and when the

proper conditions are created, exists first and foremost with Jordan. There is a chance of arriving at a dialogue with the inhabitants of the territories on interim arrangements.

[Dan] But not at this point.

[Rabin] No.

Peres Comments on Statements by Salah Khalaf

TA1508110088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Mikha'el Miro during 15 August visit to Kefar Sava—recorded]

[Text] [Peres] I do not intend to spend the rest of my life solving crossword puzzles. Each time anybody publishes a crossword puzzle, people say we should solve it and make guesses. I have nothing to solve or guess. The Palestinians must make up their mind whether they want to negotiate or shoot; the two do not work together—that is the first decision they must make.

[Miro] When you say shoot you mean yesterday's terrorist attack in the Gaza Strip.

[Peres] No, I am talking about terrorism and violence in general, not just about yesterday's incident, which was particularly regrettable.

Second, if they want to negotiate with Israel they must step forward and do so.

Third, the basis of those negotiations should be UN Resolution 242. All other things, this or another statement, cannot be taken seriously. They must speak clearly.

One aspect of what the Arab side does is very serious. They are constantly issuing demands. The simple words that the Palestinian Arab side must utter are: We want peace; we want to conduct negotiations with Israel. They are not saying those simple words.

[Miro] Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] has now explicitly said that he wants to arrive at direct negotiations with Israel about the boundaries of a Palestinian state.

[Peres] No, he has not yet said that. He said that the issue would be discussed, that they would set up a provisional government, and that they may or may not amend the Palestinian Covenant. We do not engage in speculation. What is more, Israel cannot base its policy on denials or hold a dialogue through insinuations. The issue at stake is too serious for that.

[Miro] Do you see his statement as a public relations ploy?

[Peres] I do not have to interpret it and I am not its interpreter. I know what negotiations call for, and I have spelled it out. Those who are seriously interested in negotiations should say as much in the simplest and clearest words.

[Miro] What has been said so far is neither simple nor clear?

[Peres] What has been said so far are crossword clues. Guesses and speculation are meaningless.

[Miro] And they are not enough?

[Peres] They are not a basis for anything.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

1 Killed in Rafah Riot

TA1308112288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] An Arab resident of Rafah was killed and three were wounded by IDF fire during a violent riot this morning. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Rafah residents gathered in the streets, hurling stones at IDF soldiers. When the lives of the soldiers were endangered they fired in the air, then directly at the rioters, killing a 25-year-old man and wounding three. The dead man and the wounded were transferred to the Khan Yunus hospital, where the residents started rioting again.

Our correspondent notes that the rioting was caused by the death of two local residents in a fire in Or Yehuda [on 9 August].

Tulkarm Resident Wounded

TA1308161788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] A resident of the Tulkarm refugee camp was slightly wounded in his leg by IDF soldiers' fire. There were disturbances and stoning incidents in this camp this afternoon.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that three people were wounded by shots fired by an Arab resident in the village of Al-Dimnah in the Tulkarm District last night. Arab sources told our correspondent that a man who is known as a land dealer visited the village, and residents began to stone him. He fired the weapon in his possession, wounding some of the stone throwers, and then ran away. Army forces arrived there later and restored order.

'Violent Riot' in Hebron

TA1308185588 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Excerpts] A Rafah resident was killed and six were wounded in a clash with IDF soldiers this morning. [passage omitted]

There were stoning incidents in various places in Judaea and Samaria today, including Bethlehem, Ramallah, and Hebron. IDF soldiers rushed to disperse the rioters.

A youth was slightly wounded in his leg at the Tulkarm refugee camp. A curfew was imposed on the camp. Curfew is still in effect in Qalqilyah, Qabatiyah, and the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp.

All windows of the Hebron municipal building were smashed today, in one in a series of provocations against municipal institutions in Israel which symbolize Israel's rule. Our correspondent Menahem Hadar was in Hebron today.

[Begin videorecording] A tire was set on fire today opposite the Hebron municipal building at the end of a violent riot during which all the windows of this three-story building were shattered with large stones. This was a well-coordinated action by 15 masked youths who took out their anger at their own municipality this time because the municipality serves as a symbol of Israel's rule. It is the Civil Administration that appointed 'Abd al-Majid al-Zir, the Arab mayor of the town, and it is the Civil Administration that has become stricter lately with regard to collecting general taxes, including the municipal ones. [passage omitted]

The attack on the Hebron municipal building today is the most serious of recent incidents. It is claimed that Jordan's recent moves have increased the pressure. The Arab municipalities are run according to Jordanian rules, and now that ties with Jordan have been severed, the PLO demands that new municipal elections be held, hoping to fill the vacuum with its own men. [end recording]

Curfew Imposed on Janin Camp

TA1308201188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] The IDF this evening imposed a curfew on the Janin refugee camp after prolonged disturbances which took place there today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the body of a youth named Yusuf Damaj was brought to the Janin hospital this evening. According to Arab residents the youth was killed by IDF soldiers' firing. The security forces are looking into the circumstances of his death.

'Relative Calm' in West Bank

TA1408092288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] This morning in Gaza city there were slight disturbances which included tire burning and incidents in which youths hurled stones at IDF soldiers. Quiet prevailed in other parts of the Gaza Strip.

A full strike marked the Muslim New Year, with few workers leaving for jobs in Israel.

Our correspondent reports that a curfew was imposed on the Al-Burayj, Khan-Yunus, and Bayt Hanun refugee camps, on three neighborhoods in the Rafah refugee camp, and on the Rafah neighborhood of Shabura.

Relative calm also prevailed in Judaea and Samaria, but the curfews at Qabatiyah, Qalqilyah, and the Al-Duhayshah and Janin refugee camps remain in force.

Gaza Strip Closed

TA1408164088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Text] A Rafah resident, Muhammad Ahmad Abu Rizq, aged 21, who sustained head injuries over the weekend, died of his wounds at Tel Hashomer Hospital this morning. Twelve Gaza Strip residents were injured by gunfire in the course of disturbances today and 30 others were hurt when force was used as the demonstrations were being dispersed. The unrest began in the city of Gaza and quickly spread throughout the Strip. The IDF dispersed the rioters by shooting in the air, firing rubber bullets, and hurling tear gas canisters. They managed to restore order in the area.

This afternoon, the commander of the Southern Command instructed that the Gaza Strip be closed and reporters banned from the area. The Gaza Strip was thus proclaimed a closed military area and all the journalists in the area were compelled to leave.

A Gaza hospital reported that an Al-Shati' camp resident had died, apparently after an illness. This led to ferment throughout the camp and a violent demonstration developed. Approximately 500 demonstrators marched along Gaza's main road, 'Umar al-Mukhtar Street, led by dozens of masked men who assaulted the policemen and soldiers with rocks and metal rods. Police forces, commanded by Chief Superintendent Yig'al Golan, forced them back into the camp. A mass riot continued there, with the rioters raiding a nearby hotel where policemen are accommodated. A police unit repelled them and the place was put under a curfew.

This morning, a policemen sustained slight injuries during a riot in the Tuffah neighborhood, which broke out when he found a stolen Subaru being taken apart for sale of spare parts. The disturbances heightened around noon and continued through the afternoon hours. The security forces imposed a curfew also on the Jabalyah refugee camp and Bayt Hanun. The curfew on Al-Burayj, Rafah, and Khan Yunus is still in effect.

To sum up, one could say that the Muslim New Year was marked by serious disturbances in the Gaza Strip. In Judaea and Samaria there was relative quiet today, although the curfews on the Al-Duhayshah and Janin refugee camps and on the towns of Qabatiyah and Qalqilyah still remain in effect.

Firebomb Injures 7

TA1408172188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] This evening, seven Israeli settlers from the Qatif Bloc were injured near the Al-Burayj refugee camp in the Gaza Strip when a firebomb was thrown at their car. Our correspondent Moti Amir says that the victims are three adults and three children who sustained slight injuries, and another child who sustained slightly more serious wounds. They were transferred to various hospitals by IDF helicopter and ambulances. The IDF has closed the area off and launched a search operation in a bid to capture the thrower of the cocktail.

Earlier, serious incidents took place in the Gaza Strip, leaving 12 locals wounded. The IDF decided to close the area off until further notice and impose a curfew on it.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that this move was taken following deliberations in the defense establishment last week. It was reported that the inhabitants of the territories will be forbidden to leave for Israel and that those returning from work in Israel will only be allowed to reenter the Strip when the Civil Administration permits it.

The most serious incidents occurred in the Al-Shati' and Jabalyah refugee camps, in the town of Bayt Hanun, and in four neighborhoods of Gaza.

In Judaea and Samaria, no outstanding events were recorded today. There was no strike, and laborers left for work inside the Green Line. The curfew is still in effect in two refugee camps, as well as in the towns of Qabatiyah and Qalqilyah.

14 Aug Incidents

TA1508100188 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Aug 88 p 1

[Report by Kenneth Kaplan and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Palestinian sources said the extreme violence [in the Gaza Strip on 14 August] was a reaction to recent deaths and beatings of Gazans: Two Gazans died in a fire apparently set by arsonists in Or Yehuda last week, and a third Gazan trapped in that fire is in serious condition. That incident was followed by the severe beating of three Gazan garbage collectors in Giv'at Shemu'el on Friday. Reports that two Rafah residents died in the wake of Saturday's riots, and that a boy was killed in Al-Shaja'iyah yesterday morning added more fuel to the flames.

The boy was said to have been shot in the head and his family reportedly buried him immediately to prevent an autopsy. The IDF spokesman said he was unaware of the incident.

The two other Palestinians who died yesterday were identified as Hisham or Mahir Makkad, 20, who sustained a skull injury a fortnight ago, and 20-year-old Muhammad Ahmad Abu Rizq, who was injured while the army dispersed a riot in Rafah on Saturday. The IDF confirmed only Abu Rizq's death.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 15 August reports that "over 20 people wounded by gunfire were brought yesterday to hospitals in the Gaza Strip. Some of them were treated on the spot and sent home."]

In the West Bank, at least two persons were wounded in clashes with troops. There were scattered incidents of stone-throwing, burning of tyres and erecting of barricades on roads.

At the Balatah refugee camp in Nabulus, masked youths burned tyres and hurled stones at troops, who responded by opening fire, wounding a teenager in the hand and a 22-year-old man in the leg.

Clashes were also reported in Nabulus, where youths hurled two petrol bombs at soldiers and stoned troops.

Local sources said a petrol bomb was thrown at a police station, igniting a tent. Troops fired shots in the air and fired tear gas to disperse the rioters.

Palestinian sources said that two persons were shot and wounded at the Al-Jalazun refugee camp near Ramallah, and that another person was wounded in clashes at Al-Birah but there were no such reports from military sources.

Severe clashes between rockthrowing Palestinians and troops were reported in Tulkarm and neighbouring Shuwayhah. Troops used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the rioters, who also stoned a branch of the Israel Discount Bank, according to local sources.

The village of Tall near Nabulus was reported under closure by the army, with residents forbidden from cultivating their fields or marketing their dates.

The Janin and Al-Duhayshah refugee camps were under curfew, as were the towns of Qabatiyah, which has been under curfew for three weeks, and Qalqilyah.

Riots were also reported in Hebron, Bethlehem and Bayt Sahur.

Detainee Commits Suicide

TA1508072488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] An inhabitant of the territories kept in detention in the Al-Zahiriyah lockup facility committed suicide last night. His body was transferred to the forensic institute at Abu Kabir. Military Police have launched an investigation.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that quiet prevails this morning in Judaea and Samaria. Curfews remain in effect in the Al-Duhayshah and Janin refugee camps and the towns of Qabatiyah and Qalqilyah.

Last night there were riots in the refugee camp in Tulkarm. The security forces imposed a curfew on the camp this morning.

1 Killed During Tulkarm Riots

TA1508081288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Tulkarm Hospital reported this morning that one person was killed during riots in the Tulkarm refugee camp. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the IDF is looking into the circumstances of his death. Quiet prevails in Judaea and Samaria this morning.

Meetings With PLO Focus on West Bank, Relations

Talks Open 12 Aug

NC1208204188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2006 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Amman, 12 Aug (MENA)—Jordan and the PLO have agreed on the need to support the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories until its desired goals have been achieved. They also agreed not to take any measures that would hamper the steadfastness of the Arab citizens in the occupied territories.

A responsible Palestinian source told a MENA correspondent in Amman this evening that the Jordanian-Palestinian talks which started today were frank and constructive and that they dealt with the recent Jordanian measures severing legal and administrative links with the occupied West Bank. The source added that the two sides will resume their talks tomorrow and the day after to discuss several topics pertaining to future Jordanian-Palestinian relations, as well as the financial and administrative measures concerning the disengagement of ties between Jordan and the West Bank. [passage omitted]

Talks Proceed 'Smoothly'

JN1308085888 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Aug 88 pp 1, 3

[By Nirmin Murad, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpt] Amman—Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Friday opened talks described as "smooth, honest and brotherly" on the Kingdom's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the Israeli- occupied West Bank.

It was the first meeting between the two sides after His Majesty King Husayn announced that Jordan was severing formal links with the West Bank to make room for the PLO to assume its responsibilities as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Friday's talks went "smoothly, in an atmosphere of honesty and brotherly feelings," the Jordan news agency PETRA, reported. The Jordanian side to the meeting was headed by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and included Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani, Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Fayiz al-Tarawinah while the PLO side was headed by Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas and included Executive Committee members 'Abdallah Hurani, 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya and Muhammad Milhim in addition to Hani al-Hasan, an advisor to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Al-Khasawinah told reporters the three-and-a-half hour meeting, held at the Prime Ministry, covered "issues of mutual concern in a very constructive and positive atmosphere."

A senior PLO official told the JORDAN TIMES that the talks centered on "Jordanian-Palestinian relations in light of the Kingdom's recent decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank."

He also said that talks covered proposals for a Palestinian government-in-exile, which is under discussion within the PLO itself.

The PLO official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the two sides discussed the status of Jordanian passports held by West Bank residents, the rights of employees in the occupied territories who were retired and compensated in a recent measure by the the Kingdom, and "the implications of these measures on furure of Palestinians." [passage omitted]

King, PLO Officials Meet

JN1308111188 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] In Amman, King Husayn this morning received a PLO delegation led by Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin. This is the king's first meeting with a PLO delegation since the announcement on disengaging the legal and administrative relationship between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the occupied West Bank at the end of last month.

King Explains 'Motives'

JN1308151888 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today a PLO delegation comprising Mahmud 'Abbas, 'Abdallah Hurani, Muhammad Milhim, Hani al-Hasan, and Brigadier General 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya.

The delegation members briefed his majesty on their assessment of the Palestinian stiuation in the current past as well as the approaches of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in view of the Jordanian measures disengaging the administrative and legal relationship with the West Bank. These measures gave a positive momentum to the Palestine question in the international arena.

His Majesty King Husayn explained to the delegation members the pan-Arab motives and considerations behind the Jordanian measures as well as the constants of the Jordanian stand toward the Palestine question. The delegation expressed the PLO's thanks to His Majesty King Husayn for his care and support for the Palestine question and the Palestinian people.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah.

PLO's Hurani Assesses Talks

JN1308182288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani by Radio Monte Carlo correspondent Randa Habib in Amman]

[Text] [Habib] Were there specific demands by the PLO side and have these demands been met?

[Hurani] The PLO did not have demands, but questions and explanations regarding the dimensions of the Jordanian measures, and the gap that could have been left in cooperation with the Jordanian brothers had there been any negative reflections to this step. We agreed with the Jordanian brothers on all these issues.

[Habib] You met with King Husayn. Has a date for Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan been set?

[Hurani] Yes, we met with his majesty the king today. The talks were a continuation of the talks that we held yesterday with the prime minister. The talks will be continued with the fraternal Jordanian delegation led by the prime minister tomorrow. However, the issue of Brother Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] visit was not discussed although it has not been canceled. We have learned that the visit will be discussed and decided upon in light of the results of the current talks of our delegation.

PNC Speaker, 'Sources' Comment

JN1408073088 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Aug 88 p 20

[Text] Amman—PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has asserted that the Jordanian-Palestinian talks are being conducted in an atmosphere of true brotherhood and are permeated by a spirit of great responsibility.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih stressed that the Jordanian measures were not aimed at harming the Palestine question or pan-Arab welfare, but strengthening and deepening ties between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

In a related development, AL-RA'Y has learned from informed sources that the current talks will shape the features of the new stage of Jordanian-Palestinian relations in the light of the political options and alternatives proposed by the Palestinian side.

These sources added that the talks dealt in detail with all issues, particularly those on passports, the occupied territory people's residence in Jordan, and traffic on the two bridges.

AL-RA'Y has also learned that the talks dealt with 'Arafat's visit to Jordan and the arrangements made in this regard.

The sources indicated that the Jordanian side responded positively to the Palestinian delegation's demands and expressed its readiness to fufill them.

Talks Cover Passport Measures

JN1408075188 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Aug 88 p 18

[By Rana Sabbagh]

[Text] Amman (REUTER)—A PLO official yesterday said the PLO asked Jordan to freeze new passport measures that might make Palestinians in the occupied West Bank stateless.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told REUTER: "We trust that Jordan will help us during this transitional period until the PLO decides how to fill the vacuum resulting from Jordan's withdrawal from the West Bank."

He added that the PLO hopes Jordan will wait until the end of the emergency PNC session in Algiers before implementing its passport measures.

The PNC is scheduled to convene next month to decide on the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile to fill the vacuum resulting from Jordan's decision to sever ties with the West Bank. The PNC will also discuss a proposal to proclaim an independent Palestinian state and call for placing the occupied territories under a European or international mandate.

Delay of Measures Asked

JN1408085288 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0820 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 14 Aug (WAKH)—Well-informed Palestinian sources have stated that the PNC will hold an extraordinary session on 20 September, and that this date was set during the talks PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat held with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

In statements to AL-KHALIJ here today the sources said that the Palestinian delegation currently holding talks with Jordanian officials in Amman has asked Jordan to freeze the measures disengaging administrative ties between Jordan and the West Bank for a month and until the end of the extraordinary PNC session during which resolutions on future Palestinian action will be adopted.

PLO's Milhim Views Talks

JN1408172888 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Talks resumed in Amman today between the Jordanian side led by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and the Palestinian side under Brother Mahmud 'Abbas, known as Abu Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member.

The talks revolved around the consequences of Jordanian measures in the occupied land and enhancing the PLO's role and responsibilities there. Muhammad Milhim, PLO Executive Committee member and member of the Palestinian team to the talks with Jordan, said the impression they came away with from the Amman talks is that the Jordanian Government will continue to give special facilities to the Palestinians in the occupied land, including passports, bridge crossings, and agricultural exports from the occupied land.

Hurani Calls Talks 'Positive'

JN1408175488 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] A PLO delegation comprising Brother 'Abdallah Hurani and Mahmud 'Abbas, known as Abu Mazin, PLO Executive Committee members, and Hani al-Hasan, adviser to brother Palestinian leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], arrives in Cairo tomorrow for talks with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egypt's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry.

Meanwhile, Brother 'Abdallah Hurani has emphasized that the talks with Jordanian officials were positive and understanding was reached on all issues. The two sides agreed that Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank will have no negative impact on the Palestinians in the occupied territory.

Jordanian officials, added Hurani, emphasized that the Jordanian measures were meant to advance the Palestinian cause. The aim of these measures was to shift Jordan's political links with the West Bank to the PLO so the international community will relate to it as the sole party responsible for the Palestinian cause.

Spokesman Sums Up Talks

JN1408181788 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Aug

[Text] The second meeting was held at the Prime Ministry this morning between the Jordanian delegation led by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and the Palestinian delegation led by Mahmud 'Abbas. The two sides continued the talks which began 2 days ago on Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank and the measures that were undertaken in implementation of this decision, which was made in response to the demand of the brothers in the PLO. The Jordanian-Palestinian meetings were conducted in a spirit of complete fraternity and frankness.

At the conclusion of these meetings, an official Jordanian spokesman made the following statement:

A PLO delegation led by Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member, and comprising 'Abdallah Hurani, Muhammad Milhim, 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, and Hani al-Hasan paid a visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan from 11 to 14 August 1988 with the aim of holding talks and consultations with the Jordanian Government on the Palestinian situation following Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the occupied West Bank.

During the visit, the Palestinian delegation met with His Majesty King Husayn and held two sessions of talks with the Jordanian side led by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. And in light of the explanations his majesty and the Jordanian Government gave on the motives, considerations, and aims of the Jordanian decision, and the answers to the Palestinian delegation's questions concerning the measures of the Jordanian decision, the Palestinian delegation expressed its complete relief for this decision and all the measures pertaining to it and voiced its conviction that this decision was made in order to serve the Palestinian cause and promote the Palestinian people's aspirations for highlighting their national identity on their soil, as well as to support the blessed Palestinian uprising and affirm the role of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in its endeavors to establish an independent Palestinian state on the national Palestinian soil.

Based on the above, the Palestinian delegation expressed complete conviction in the legitimacy of the Jordanian position on considering all the Jordanians of Palestinian origin to be full Jordanian citizens in terms of their rights and duties, as well as in the fact that this citizenship does not infringe on their legitimate rights in Palestine.

The Palestinian delegation expressed its conviction that the national unity of the Jordanian people is a bastion to block the path of all the hostile plots that are aimed at both Jordan and Palestine. The delegation affirmed that Jordan's strength, impregnability, and stability is a source of strength to the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's struggle.

Based on this joint understanding, the Palestinian delegation voiced the PLO's desire to hold consultations with the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the steps and initiatives that the PLO might adopt in the future path of the Palestinian people's struggle in order to realize their national aspirations.

In this respect, the Jordanian side welcomed the principle of consultations and its support for any step or decision that the PLO might make to realize the Palestinian people's national aspirations on their national soil, affirming Jordan's commitment to continuing its pan-Arab role in the Arab-Israeli struggle and in supporting the Palestinian people and backing them in their legitimate struggle to reach their national aspirations.

The Palestinian delegation expressed its thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn for receving and patronizing the delegation as well as his honorable pan-Arab stands toward the Arab nation's causes, particularly the Palestinian cause.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah, Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Fayiz al-Tarawinah, and Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nabih al-Nimr.

The meeting was attended on the Palestinian side by 'Abdallah Hurani, Muhammad Milhim, and 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee members; and Hani al-Hasan, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Praises Outcome

JN1508090988 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Aug 88 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "On the Meetings of the Jordanian and Palestinian Delegations"]

[Text] The meetings of the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations concluded yesterday with the two sides issuing a positive statement with two different formulas. The members of the fraternal Palestinian delegation also made constructive brotherly statements to news agencies.

All statements reflected a joint and sound orientation and one content. This is in order to achieve the primary objective of the Jordanian political decision, which is ending the PLO's doubtful view of and dispute with the Jordanian approach toward the issue of liberating the West Bank from the Israeli occupation and toward the Arab-Israeli conflict in general.

In its administrative and legal disengagement measures, Jordan had two purposes in mind. First, to maintain its commitment at the Algiers summit by responding to the request of the PLO and the Arab countries to ensure the PLO's sole handling of the Palestinian affairs; and second, to implement its decision by measures which are not only governed by the pan-Arab bond, but by the ties of interrelationship and genuine unity which has linked the two peoples on the two banks during and before the unity, and after the occupation.

Therefore, Jordan's measures have been based on quiet, careful consideration in order to ensure the PLO sole handling of the Palestinian affairs, to hand to it the political responsibility for demanding the liberation of the West Bank, and to establish a Palestinian state on the Palestinian soil.

Jordan has also been eager that its measures serve this purpose by removing all obstacles before the steadfastness of the Palestinian people on their national soil and consolidating all their anti-occupation acts, including the valiant uprising that has continued for 9 months in the villages, camps, and towns of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The fraternal Palestinian delegation was briefed on all these measures. It was also given a detailed explanation of the national and pan-Arab justification for each measure. The delegation highly appreciated the honest and sincere Jordanian stand and showed a genuine understanding of the noble Jordanian leadership's motives, which have never changed and will never change toward Palestine and its people.

The Palestinian appreciation and understanding of the Jordanian measures have been met with honest happiness by the Jordanian side which, for the first time in a long time, feels that the PLO leadership is being fair to Jordan and views it as a fraternal fellow struggler whose love for Palestine and its people is not less than others, and whose deep objective and historical relationship with Palestine is unparalleled.

It is really heartening that all the conferees have emerged with this positive statement which left nothing unclear or unspecified and which leaves no room for misunderstanding or misinterpretation. It also left no room for disrupting the healthy atmosphere which has begun to prevail in the relations between the two fraternal sides. Jordan is not Palestine, as the common enemies keep reiterating. Jordan will continue to be alongside Palestine and the legitimate struggle of its people with all their sons and forces.

The Jordanian side was deeply impressed in particular by the honest fraternal sentiments expressed by the Palestinian leaders toward His Majesty King Husayn, Jordan's leader and the symbol of its pan-Arab purity.

With this new shining chapter of Jordan's relations with the PLO, heavy responsibilities are shouldered by the honest ones at this new stage whose slogan and axis of its work must be to maintain the unity of the Arab stand and bolster the international status of the PLO in order to achieve the objectives of the Palestinian people. In the Jordanian arena, this requires consolidating the national unity of the citizens of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. No citizen or official in this country allows anybody to harm this national unity which has made and will continue to make Jordan an exemplary state in the brotherhood and equality of its citizens before the Arab world.

Velayati Meets Lebanese Shi'ites in Damascus

NC1408134388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Damascus for Libya today after conveying a message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad from Iranian President Khamene'i.

During his stay in Damascus Velayati received at his request a number of Lebanese Shi'ite officials at the Iranian Embassy. These included Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council; Minister Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement; and a Hizballah delegation led by Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli. In later statements the Lebanese Shi'ite officials noted that their talks with Velayati had touched on the situation in the Gulf and the UN Security Council's debates on the implementation of Resolution 598.

For his part, Shaykh Shams al-Din reiterated his call for unity among Muslim ranks now that Iran has agreed to end its war with Iraq. Minister Birri, meanwhile, said his meeting with Velayati was positive and fruitful and expressed the hope that the meeting would constitute a starting point toward unifying Muslims and fighters against Israel.

Shaykh al-Tufayli, for his part, said that his talks with the Iranian foreign minister had dealt with a number of Lebanese issues. He denied any connection with the issue of foreign hostages in Lebanon.

Iran Reportedly Conducting Talks on Hostages

LD1408092188 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0845 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug 14 (KUNA)—Intensive contacts are currently under way between Beirut and Damascus on means of releasing foreign hostages detained in Lebanon, according to press reports here Sunday.

Daily AL-ITTIHAD quoted Lebanese sources as saying that a high-ranking Iranian delegation, headed by an envoy dispatched by Shura Council (parliament) Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, is currrently visiting Beirut for discussions with leaders of Hizballah party on this issue.

At the same time a Hizballah delegation arrived in Syria to confer with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is currently visiting the country on the same issue.

Fadlallah Reiterates Allegiance to Iran

LD1208202888 Tehran IRNA in English 1718 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Beirut, Aug. 12, IRNA—Lebanese Alim Seyyed Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah condemned U.S. intervention in Lebanon's internal affairs, and rejected a new president from the Maronites.

Sermonizing at the Friday prayers at Imam Reza (A.S.) Mosque, southern Beirut suburb, Fadlallah referred to the latest Zionist air raid on Palestinian camps in Sidon and termed it "a pressure against Lebanese people to accept U.S. policies in their country."

The prominent alim also described disconnection of Jordan's economic and administrative links with the West Bank as a plot to contain the lofty uprising of the Palestinians in the occupied lands, and leading Palestinians into accepting the compromising plan of Yasir 'Arafat.

Fadlallah also reiterated the allegiance of the Lebanese Muslims to Imam Khomeyni and to the Iranian nation which, he said, continue their struggles against global arrogance and international Zionism.

Presidential Election Set for 18 August

NC1308094988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies Staff Office met under the chairmanship of Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni this morning. It set Thursday, 18 August, as the date for electing a new president of the Republic. Our correspondent, Christian Usi, reports.

[Begin recording] The meeting of the Chamber of Deputies Staff Office ended a short time ago. Speaker al-Husayni has extended the following invitation: Venerable colleagues, in accordance with the provisions of the Lebanese Constitution, particularly Article 73 thereof, the Chamber of Deputies is invited to elect a new president of the Republic and will convene for this purpose at 1100 on Thursday, 18 August 1988, at the Chamber's temporary seat in Mansur Palace. We hope you will attend at the scheduled time. [end recording]

Al-Husayni Discusses Election Security

NC1308102088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Speaker Husayn al-Husayni spoke to reporters after today's meeting of the Chamber of Deputies Staff Office. Asked about the quorum, the speaker said: The Chamber's speaker has a duty which he must perform. Each colleague must adopt the stand which satisfies his conscience and serves his homeland.

Referring to the large number of candidates, Al-Husayni said: It is a sign of health to offer to serve the homeland. The opposite is what we should fear. The large number of candidates indicates that there are many who are willing to serve Lebanon and rescue it.

Discussing the security measures, Speaker al-Husayni said: Each party must carry out its duty. We believe that we are carrying out our national duties in accordance with the constitutional powers vested in us. Each official must carry out his constitutional and legal duty.

The Chamber of Deputies secretary general said that only Chamber officials and media officials who are supplied with a special permit to attend the election session will be permitted to enter the Mansur Palace. Information institutions are requested to apply to the Chamber of Deputies Information Directorate in order to accredit one representative and one photographer for each institution. The secretary general said: To obtain a permit, the application must be signed by the institution's responsible director. Two photographs and a copy of the personal identity card must be enclosed with the application.

Shi'ite Cleric Supports Muslim Candidate
NC1208165788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] His eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, has said that the nomination of a Muslim for the presidency is a venture into the unknown that must be tried. He revealed that he was recently about to announce the nomination of a Muslim figure to the presidency, but he refrained from this because those he had in mind did not want to be nominated and considered it an act of foolhardiness. The second reason was his eagerness not to involve the country in a new crisis.

Shaykh Shams al-Din said, however, that he continues to support this idea, because we are the mother of the child, we are the mother and father of Lebanon. He asked why no Muslim politician nominates himself for president, even if the Chamber of Deputies fails him.

Al-Jumayyil, Ja'Ja', Paqraduni Meet in Bikfayya
NC1208193488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] A meeting was held at the Bikfayya presidential residence at 1300 today, attended by President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'Ja', and Deputy Lebanese Forces Commander Karim Paqraduni. It has been learned that the discussion dealt with the latest local, regional, and international developments concerning the constitutional deadline. The conferees stressed the need to set a date for the electoral session and to support the majority view regarding the election of a president of reconciliation.

Army Refutes Accusations, Asserts Role
NC1308103888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Army Guidance Directorate on 13 August]

[Text] Some individuals occupying various offices, who have identical designs and objectives, are attempting to portray the Army as different from what it really is and as having a different role from the one it is carrying out. The objective of these efforts is to sow suspicion and worry within the Lebanese public, which wants the constitutional deadline to pass in an atmosphere of security and peace.

The Army Command refuses to stoop to the rhetorical and media absurdities which distract the people from their fateful constitutional process. It affirms to all the Lebanese people that the Army's sole concern at the current stage is to defend the constitutional deadline so a vacuum will not appear and the free parliamentary and democratic system will not collapse.

For this reason, the Army Command urges everyone to rise to the level of national responsibility required at this stage and to refrain from leveling false accusations that seek to implement schemes which are designed to harm the homeland and the unity of the land and the people.

PSP Radio Reports Further on Junblatt Statements
NC1208202288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1900 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] PSP leader Walid Junblatt has asserted that the election of any candidate from the military institution to the post of president amounts to a declaration of war because the Lebanese Army is in the service of the United States and Israel and has been trained to be hostile to anything that is Arab and nationalistic. Interviewed by AFP today, Junblatt said that the election of Army Commander Michel 'Awn as president would weaken the Syrian role in Lebanon. He viewed the Lebanese Forces veto as a mere screen to cover up their full coordination and alliance with Al-Jumayyil, describing it as maneuvers conducted by the Lebanese Forces and Al-Jumayyil on U.S. instructions to make the election of 'Awn appear as the only means of salvation available.

Junblatt noted that the maximum alert declared by the Lebanese Forces is part of Al-Jumayyil's scheme designed to create a constitutional vacuum with a view to placing the elections before one of two options: either a military coup through the election of 'Awn, or the formation of a transitional government by Al-Jumayyil, led by a Maronite Christian and excluding the national and Islamic parties. Junblatt pointed out that the Americans have stalled the Syrian solutions in Lebanon and are trying to exhaust them.

On his role in the presidential elections, Junblatt said he has opposed certain candidates without nominating alternative ones. He said that his ideal candidate is a Maronite who rules the country with justice, gives each sect its rights, and adopts a policy open to the Arabs.

U.S. Envoy to Lebanon Reportedly Recalled

LD1308162388 Kuwait KUNA in English 1504 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Beirut, Aug 13 (KUNA)—The American ambassador here John Kelly has been recalled by his government in what was said to be a plan to replace him by a new American envoy before the election of a new president in Lebanon.

Diplomatic sources told KUNA Saturday that the Reagan administration recalled Kelly to Washington because he pursued some actions contrary to the American policy in Lebanon, especially regarding the election issue.

A few days ago the American Embassy here leaked to the press that Kelly left to Washington after receiving an urgent message from his brother asking him to come to the U.S. immediately because his father was very sick.

The sources said the American Embassy report is not correct because Kelly was recalled by the State Department in preparation to replace him by another ambassador.

Kelly, the sources noted, has been coordinating with local and regional friends to minimize Syria's influence in Lebanon especially in relation to the forthcoming presidential elections.

He also was said to favor a Lebanese presidential candidate not supported by his superiors at the State Department.

According to the sources, the American charge d'affairs here Daniel Sampson is providing Washington with the latest developments in Lebanon while waiting for the newly appointed Ambassador John McCarthy to assume his post.

McCarthy is not likely to take up his responsibilities here before holding of the elections on Thursday, the sources indicated.

Israeli Planes Carry Out Mock Raids Over Sidon

NC1508113588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1129 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes have been carrying out mock raids over Sidon and the nearby camps since 1215 today. The planes have been confronted with antiaircraft fire. Sirens were sounded in the city as a precaution against the possibility of real raids.

Complaint Lodged With UN Over Israeli Air Raids

NC1208171488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] At the instructions of Dr Salim al-Huss, the acting prime minister and acting foreign minister, Lebanon has submitted a complaint to the UN Security Council over the Israeli air attacks on the areas east of Sidon on Tuesday. Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent representative at the United Nations, condemned the Israeli aggression and held Israel fully responsible. The complaint called on UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and the Security Council to force Israel to respect the UN Charter and the international agreements, to stop its aggressions, and to withdraw from Lebanese territory in implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions.

Ambassador Fakhuri asked that the Lebanese complaint be considered an official document of the UN Security Council and General Assembly.

'9 February' Claims Anti-Syrian Attack in North

NC1208150388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi forces of the 9 February Organization have claimed responsibility for firing a rocket at a Syrian intelligence post in the 'Ayn al-Burj area of Al-Minya in the north at dawn today.

Syrian Officers Warned Against Detentions

NC1308141188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] The Beirut Martyrs Battalion warned Syrian officers Ghazi Kan'an and Amir Tallah at noon today that it will strike at Syrian civilians in West Beirut unless detentions by Syrian occupation forces in the wake of operations against them are stopped.

The Beirut Martyrs Battalion called for the release of Lebanese being held at the Syrian prison in the headquarters of the Syrian observers in the Beau Rivage Hotel in West Beirut.

Amal-Hizballah Clash in Suburb Reported

NC1308045888 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] A clash between Amal and Hizballah gunmen near the Hayy al-Sullam Mosque in Beirut's southern suburb last evening left 1 person dead and 16 others, including a Syrian soldier, wounded.

Resistance Men Shell Israeli Settlement 12 Aug

NC1308054188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] A resistance group yesterday fired a number of Katyusha rockets at the Israeli settlement of (Gorot) inside the occupied territory. The occupation forces carried out a wide-scale combing operation including the areas of Kafra and Yatar Townships.

Iran's Velayati Visits, Discusses Various Issues

Arrives 13 Aug

JN1308164688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his delegation this morning. The Iranian ambassador to Damascus was present. The meeting covered the Gulf situation against the background of the cease-fire acceptance by Iran and Iraq and efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598. They also discussed regional developments and how to tackle the Zionist enemy's expansionist designs. Discussions also explored how to further enhance bilateral ties.

Velayati and his delegation arrived in Damascus earlier in the day for a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Meeting them at Damascus International Airport were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the chief of the Arab homeland desk at the Foreign Ministry, the assistant to the chief of protocol, and Iran's ambassador and the embassy staff.

In an arrival statement, Velayati said he is carrying a letter from President 'Ali Khamene'i to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. He will meet with Syrian officials to talk about current regional developments, especially Iran's consent to UN Security Council Resolution No 598 and bilateral ties, Velayati said.

Meets With President

JN1308203888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad this evening received Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his acompanying delegation. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, Iranian ambassador in Damascus, attended.

The conversation revolved around the situation and developments in the Gulf region. President al-Asad was briefed by Dr Velayati on the efforts and contacts being made to implement UN Secutity Council Resolution 598.

Confers With Counterpart

LD1408082988 Tehran IRNA in English 0640 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug 14, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Damascus on an official visit Saturday night and conferred with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and foreign minister Faruq al-Shar' on the UN Security Council's Resolution 598 and the Persian Gulf. He also submitted a message to Syrian president from Iran's President 'Ali Khamene'i. The Syrian president repeated Syria's support for the Islamic Republic.

The Syrian foreign minister said to Velayati that his government has continuously supported Iran's stance in relations with the Middle East and world developments and that the close relations between Syria and Iran will survive plots against the two nations.

He said every positive development for either country is equally a development in the interest of the other.

Velayati is to depart for Tripoli at the end of his visit to Damascus.

Reviews Results of Talks

JN1408123188 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Aug

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his accompanying delegation yesterday evening. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Iranian Ambassador in Damascus Mohammad Hasan Akhtari attended the meeting which lasted until early this morning, Sunday.

Dr Velayati conveyed to the president a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i dealing with the latest developments in the region. The message also affirms Iran's eagerness to enhance relations between Iran and Syria and promote bilateral cooperation in various fields. The president asked the Iranian foreign minister to convey a reply message.

Dr Velayati reviewed the ongoing efforts and contacts to implement Security Council Resolution No 598. The president welcomed Iran's decision to accept Resolution No 598. He also stressed the importance of accepting it and achieving peace regarding the general situation in the region. He said Syria supported Iran's decision to accept Resolution No 598 from the start. Syria also considered it a wise decision which will improve the situation in the region in general.

The president asserted Syria's eagerness to promote bilateral relations and enhance bilateral cooperation in various fields in the interest of the two countries and in favor of the regional states. He said peace can provide greater and better opportunities to promote relations and cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati departed Damascus this morning. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', a number of senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Iranian ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff.

In a predeparture statement, Dr Velayati expressed full satisfaction with the results of his talks in Damascus. He said he conveyed to President Hafiz al-Asad a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i dealing with regional issues, led by the Palestine question and the situation in

the Gulf. The Iranian foreign minister said his talks with the president were very fruitful. He added: The two parties stressed the consolidation of bilateral relations and the expansion of bilateral cooperation on the regional and international levels. (ENDALL)

Concludes Visit

JN1408103188 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati left Damascus this morning. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', a number of senior officials of the Foreign Ministry, the Iranian ambassador in Damascus, and embassy staff.

Radio Praises Cease-Fire, Ties With Iran

JN1508133088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, visited Damascus, where he conveyed a message from Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to President Hafiz al-Asad. This visit gave them the chance to exchange views on the new situation which has come about due to the international efforts being exerted to implement Security Council Resolution 598 and the effects of implementation and the achievement of peace on the general situation of the whole region.

Syria, which right from the start opposed the war that Saddam Husayn's regime declared on the Islamic Republic in Iran and which—in the first days of the war—called for stopping this war and preventing the creation of a struggle between the Arabs and a friendly revolutionary power opposed to Zionism and imperialism. Syria attempted, during the last years, to contain the war and protect the Gulf states from burning from its fire.

Syria exerted efforts upon demand from the fraternal Arab states in the Gulf, to deal with the crises that erupted, the complex situations which came about, and the dangers of the war spreading, which nearly happened on more than one occasion due to the Iraqi regime. The Iraqi regime tried with all its might to involve the Gulf states in the war and to start a war of animosity and aggression with Iran to overpower the pan-Arab struggle of the Arab nation in Palestine.

Therefore, it was natural for Syria to welcome the Islamic Republic of Iran's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598, since it plays an important role in improving the general situation in the region and creating the appropriate climate for starting better and more positive relations between the Gulf states in general.

Syria, which saw its relation with Iran through a strategic, pan-Arab perspective, always wanted to preserve the best relations with the Iranian revolution opposed to Zionism and imperialism, and which did away with the Shah's regime, Israel's ally and the agent of U.S. imperialism. Syria, through this stand, prevented execution of the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy to start the fire of animosity between Iran and the all the Arab countries. That is, Syria prevented the start of an Arab-Iranian conflict, which might have diverted the Arabs' attention from their pan-Arab enemy in Palestine, scatter their powers, and move them from the real arena of battle to the wrong place.

And now, when signs of a possible peace are cropping up on the horizon, Syria supports and welcomes all honest efforts made in serious steps taken toward peace. The circumstances of peace do not merely end a war which harmed our people in Iraq and Iran, but open the door to improve relations in the region and review the idea of concentrating Arab and friendly resources and capabilities on the battle against the Zionist enemy. This enemy wishes to drown the region in blood and destruction and spread its control and its imperialist master's control over the whole region's resources, riches, and potentials.

Just as Syrian-Iranian bilateral relations were in the past in the interest of the Arab nation, the pan-Arab cause, the fraternal Arab countries, and the struggle against Zionism and imperialism, these bilateral relations, which both sides wish to develop and expand in all fields, are in the interest of the common struggle against the common enemy and in the interest of the two countries and all countries in the region, foremost of which are the fraternal Arab countries.

AL-BA'TH Cited on 'Saddam's Crazy War'

JN1008133088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Aug 88

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH editorializes on the real objectives which prompted the Iraqi regime to launch its war against Iran. Under the headline "Iraq's Executioner and the Gulf War," AL-BA'TH says: When Iraq's executioner and his clique responds to the UN decision on the cease-fire by celebrating what he calls victory, he is, in fact, adding to his hideous crimes against the Iraqi people a new crime—more hideous and more terrible. This crime is his exposed attempt to forge facts, blackout realities, and force our Iraqi people, who have been destroyed by the war, to nurse their wounds.

The first objective of the crazy war ignited by the tyranny is to strike at Iraq's potential and capabilities, squander its wealth and resources, and send its youths to death. Saddam has completely removed Iraq from the arena of confrontation with the basic enemy of the Arabs, Israel, as Al-Sadat did in Egypt.

The second objective is to remove the Iranian revolution from the arena of confrontation with Israel.

The third objective is to open the doors of the region widely in front of NATO and American concentrations and fleets to control the regional strategic areas and to impose hegemony over regional resources, affairs, and causes.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Iraq's executioner might think that he has triumphed and has tightened his grip on Iraq and its people. However, he is deluded because our people in Iraq will not allow him to continue with his tyranny and crimes. The end of the executioner is not far, particularly when the Iraqi people discover the size of the catastrophe caused by Saddam's crazy war to Iraq in particular and to the region in general.

Afghanistan

Mas'ud Attends Soviet Troop Withdrawal Ceremony

LD1208204988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Excerpts] A large group of foreign journalists yesterday witnessed the arrival of a Soviet unit in Kushka, Turkmen SSR. A ceremony held in the Kushka border region was attended by Haydar Mas'ud, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee; a delegation of leaders from Herat Province; delegations of party and government leaders from Turkmen SSR; and a large number of Kushka inhabitants. [passage omitted]

The first stage of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan is about to be completed in accordance with the Geneva accords.

The withdrawal of limited Soviet troop units from Afghanistan began some 3 months ago. Half of these units will have left Afghanistan by 15 August.

Soviets at Halfway Point of Troop Pullout

OW1408112688 Tokyo KYODO in English 1053 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 14 KYODO—The Soviet Union on Sunday reached the halfway point in the withdrawal of its 103,000 troops from Afghanistan, one day ahead of schedule despite intensifying guerrilla activities, informed sources said.

Under agreements signed in Geneva by Afghanistan and Pakistan earlier this year with Moscow and Washington as their guarantors, the Soviet Union started withdrawing its troops May 14 and will completely remove them by next February 15.

The Soviet Union sent troops to Afghanistan in December 1979 but agreed to withdraw them to politically solve the Afghan issue at an early date in line with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's policy, the sources said.

The sources said, however, there is still a long way to go before real peace can be restored in Afghanistan, as guerrillas started intensifying their activities in early July.

The capital of Kabul has been the target of rebel attacks in the past few days.

Soviet military authorities in Kabul have said they will carry out their withdrawal under the original schedule but sources said the Soviets are increasingly frustrated over Pakistan's supply of arms to the guerrillas.

Soviet authorities said they now have troops stationed in five of the 30 Afghan provinces—Kabul, Parvan, Baghlan, Samangan and Herat.

Rebel spokesmen have claimed they now control Konduz, capital of the northern Province of Konduz.

Afghan leader Najibullah's government intends to carry out a national reconciliation policy by including those opposed to his government but no progress has been made in that regard, the sources said.

In addition, factional strife in the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan is still serious, making Najibullah's political foundation unstable, they said.

The Islamic unity of mujahidin of Afghanistan which groups seven guerrilla factions announced the lineup of its own interim government in mid-June in an attempt to end the Najibullah's rule.

The sources said, however, hard-liners and moderates in the guerrilla group are at odds and has hampered their efforts to mount effective political opposition.

Soviet General Gromov Cited

LD1408173188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] General Gromov, commander of the limited Soviet contingents in Afghanistan, today took part in a press conference on completion of the first stage of the withdrawal of the limited Soviet military contingents from Afghanistan. According to a BIA correspondent report, this press conference was held in the ballroom of the Intercontinental Hotel [in Kabul]; foreign and domestic journalists participated. Gen Gromov gave information about the completion of the first stage of the withdrawal from Afghanistan of the limited Soviet military contingents, which began in accordance with the Geneva accords. He shed light on the social services which have been carried out by the Soviet internationalist soldiers in Afghanistan.

Replying to questions by foreign and Afghan journalists, he said: The first stage of the withdrawal from Afghanistan has been completed; 50 percent of them returned to their country during this period. At present, the limited Soviet military contingents remain in the provinces of Samangan, Baghlan, Herat, Farah, Kapisa, and Kabul. They too, will return to their country in the second stage of the withdrawal of the contingents by 15 February 1989.

In reply to a question, he said: The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan are capable of combat operations against the armed opposition. Their fighting and combat power has increased greatly. Despite the fact that the interference and dispatch of arms from Pakistan's soil is continuing and the Geneva accords have not been observed by the Pakistani side, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan have full capability to struggle against the extremists.

The general pointed out that the UN is working hard for implementation of the Geneva accords. The Soviet side fully cooperates with these efforts. Without doubt, the UN efforts will have good results in ensuring peace in Afghanistan and in the region and will improve the situation in Afghanistan and around it.

Soviet Mechanized Brigade Leaves Herat

LD1408191488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] A Soviet mechanized brigade left Qal'eh-ye Mir Daud in Herat Province for the Soviet Union yesterday in line with the Geneva accords and after fulfilling its internationalist duties.

According to a BAKHTAR correspondent in Herat Province, a message of gratitude from Esteemed President Najibullah on the occasion of the withdrawal of the Soviet military unit was read by the Herat deputy commander at a meeting in Qal'eh-ye Mir Daud. The vice chairman of the provincial party committee then spoke about the humanitarian duties of the internationalist officers and soldiers and conveyed the thanks of Herat's residents. Then one of the departing soldiers thanked the people of Herat on behalf of his military unit for their gratitude.

At the end of the meeting, the unit paraded before Herat's provincial leadership. Residents gave them a jubilant sendoff as they departed for their home country.

The report adds that the withdrawing unit consisted of 200 vehicles and 3000 personnel.

USSR's Ryzhkov Sends Message to Prime Minister

LD1308190588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] His Excellency N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, has sent a message expressing appreciation in response to a message sent by Afghan Prime Minister Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq. Prime Minister Sharq's message was sent on the occasion of the upcoming 44th session of CEMA and was addressed to the heads of state of the participating countries.

The message expresses appreciation for the friendly feelings conveyed by Dr Sharq and expresses a desire to consolidate bilateral friendship and cooperation. The message states that the historic events of implementing the national reconciliation policy, a multiparty system, and a coalition government are recognized by the Soviet people. They fully perceive the difficulties along the path to achieving peace in Afghanistan.

Throughout Afghanistan's history, the Soviet Union has been and will remain a good friend.

The message expresses a readiness to broaden economic cooperation in various fields and emphasizes that various aspects of this issue will be discussed during the prime minister's upcoming visit to Moscow.

The message also expresses confidence that the traditional good-neighborly relations and existing comprehensive cooperation between Afghanistan and the USSR will be developed and strengthened further.

Wakil Leaves for USSR, Norway, Hungary

LD1408211988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil left Kabul this morning for Oslo, Helsinki, and Budapest at the head of a delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan.

He was seen off at Kabul Airport by Communications Minister Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, vice ministers, the advisor and head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and Soviet Ambassador Nikolay Grigoryevich Yegorychev.

On his working visit, the foreign minister will stop in Moscow and then continue to Oslo, Norway, where he will take part in an international conference on refugees, displaced, and homeless people in Africa and the rest of the world. The foreign minister will pay a friendly visit to the Republic of Hungary at the official invitation of the Hungarian foreign minister.

Hikmatyar Seeks Support From Pakistan

LD1408102188 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 13, BAKHTAR—Gulbuddin Hikmatyar whose list of crimes during the years of the April revolution is very long has appealed to General Ziaul Haq to give him a helping hand for crushing his personal rivals, reports reaching here say.

Ziaul Haq has put eight hundred men equipped with up-to-date arms at the service of this professional terrorist. The armed men will carry operations targetted against opponents of Ziaul Haq in the cities of Peshawar and Islamabad.

Kabul Reports Anti-Rebel Activities

LD1208201188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Nine rockets which were positioned to fire on residential areas in the (?Nader Shah Kowt) region, Chaprahar Subdistrict, Nangarhar Province, were discovered and seized yesterday. As a result of this action, which was carried out with the people's assistance, two extremists were crushed and one of their hideouts was destroyed.

According to another report from Nangarhar Province, security forces seized an arms and ammunition depot in [name indistinct] area, (Momanddara) District. Four

light machineguns, 3 cases of missiles, 4 cases of mortar shells, 10 boxes of DShK ammunition, 6 boxes of heavy machinegun rounds, (?8) boxes of light machinegun rounds, as well as 250 cartons of alcoholic drinks were included in the seizure.

Several armed extremists were killed or wounded while trying to fire heavy weapons on the residential areas of Badakhshan Province. The BAKHTAR military correspondent reports a leader of an armed extremist group, Qiamoddin Kheradmand, was killed along with 17 other persons, and 23 persons were severely wounded when rockets exploded prematurely.

Mujahidin Attack Positions in Gardeyz

BK1308084088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have attacked the positions of Kabul troops, including the Gardeyz Airport and the military base in Gardeyz, causing heavy casualties and capturing a large quantity of arms and ammunition. Several Kabul soldiers are reported to have joined the mujahidin in the Gardeyz area.

The mujahidin have increased their pressure on the Afghan capital, Kabul, and fired about 30 rockets at the airport and other military installations, causing heavy losses in men and material.

25 Casualties in Rocket Attack on Gardeyz

LD1308162688 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] The criminal extremists have committed another crime. They fired missiles on residential buildings in the city of Gardeyz.

BAKHTAR reports that as a result of this barbarous action by extremists, 13 compatriots were martyred and another 12 persons, including women and children, were injured. One mosque was completely destroyed; two schools and eight residential buildings were damaged.

'Extremists' 'Crushed'; Weapons Seized

LD1308154788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] In the course of clearing the environs of Herat Province of war-mongering extremist elements, another group of these extremists were crushed yesterday by the Armed Forces in Enjil District.

The BAKHTAR military section reported that a number of war-mongering extremist elements recently tried to disrupt peace and security in the environs of Enjil District by perpetrating criminal deeds and plundering the people's wealth. As requested by the people and with their cooperation, the Armed Forces, in joint cooperation with the tribal units, inflicted crushing blows on the extremist groups. As a result, 27 of the extremists, including their ringleaders, (Sofi Zaher), (Taj Muhammad), and (Aqa Sayd), were crushed and 6 of them arrested.

Twenty-seven weapons of various kinds, one rocket launcher with 20 rockets, 120 mortar mines, 12 antivehicle mines, and thousands of rounds of ammunition for various types of weapons were seized.

A weapon and ammunition depot, where one mortar with 200 shells, 45 hand grenades, 200 antipersonnel mines, and thousands of rounds of DShK ammunition were placed, was discovered and emptied.

The report added that in the course of this action, ten armed men refrained from war and surrendered to the Armed Forces.

According to another report, as a result of action by the Armed Forces personnel, which was carried out in Zebak Subdistrict, Badakhshan Province, one (ZK-1), one DShK, and two light machineguns were seized and five extremists were arrested.

According to another report, a group of extremists was crushed in the environs of Baghlan Province in the course of clearing the surroundings of this province of such elements.

As a result of this action, which was carried out in Arab village, a number of extremist elements together with two ringleaders, (Muhammad Hakim) and (Muhammad Sadiq), were crushed.

Rebels Capture District Capital in North

BK1308151488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1445 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 13 (AFP)—Afghan rebels captured Khanabad town, a district capital near Konduz, in their second successive victory in northern Afghanistan, resistance sources said Saturday [13 August].

The mujahidin rebels had entered Konduz earlier this week, and official sources in Kabul said Friday that government forces were in control of the town's airport only.

The rebels fighting to topple the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul took over Khanabad after two days of fighting, they said.

The sources did not give details of casualties on either side.

Government troops have been engaged in a counteroperation in the provincial capital of Konduz, 25 kilometres west of Khanabad, since it fell to the mujahidin on Wednesday, state-run Radio Kabul said.

The radio reported that anti-communist guerrillas had entered by breaking through the Afghan Army cordon soon after Soviet troops vacated Konduz two days earlier.

Moscow is implementing a phased withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan under an accord signed in Geneva on April 14, having pledged to remove all its troops, estimated at between 100,000 and 115,000, by February 15, 1989.

30 'Extremists' 'Crushed'; Weapons Destroyed

LD1308164388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] The BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that a group of war-mongering extremists recently attacked residential regions in Khowst Major District. A child named Golab was martyred and a number of houses were damaged. Following the demands of residents, the Armed Forces retaliated. As a result of this action in the (Borikhel) Region, 30 extremists were crushed and tens of enemy weapons, including light and heavy weapons, were destroyed.

Rebel Commander Killed in Asmar District

LD1308172188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] As a result of successful operations in Konarha Province, a number of extremist criminals was killed and injured.

According to a BAKHTAR correspondent, this combat operation by the Armed Forces was recently carried out in Asmar District, Konarha Province. Haji 'Abdul Nabi, general commander of the so-called Gulbuddin band, together with another three men—Akbar Khan, Nawab Khan, and Sher Khan—were killed and another seven men were seriously injured.

AFP Views Government Control Over Herat

BK1408055888 Hong Kong AFP in English 0518 GMT 14 Aug 88

[By Bertrand de Saisset]

[Text] Herat, Afghanistan, Aug 14 (AFP)—Youths brandish Kalashnikov rifles among the bombed-out houses of Herat, where armoured cars guard every corner and few government men dare to walk the streets unarmed.

This western city, strategically located between the Soviet border and the most important Soviet air base in Afghanistan, at Shindand 200 kilometers (120 miles) to the south, has every appearance of being under siege.

Soviet troops keep tight control over the city center, watching streets that seem to have been invaded by trees.

At one of the main intersections of the bazaar, spared some of the rebel bombardments that have hit other districts, the atmosphere recalls Beirut.

Armed men are posted on the roofs. A half-dozen surround a machinegun.

Below, a group of teenage boys are "maintaining order." They wear traditional dress, not uniforms, and proudly carry Kalashnikovs and rocket launchers, carelessly brandishing them at hordes of children.

They call themselves "Sarandoy," or police.

The driver of the jeep taking foreign correspondents through the maze of streets and flourishing small businesses is never without his Kalashnikov either.

Representatives of the central government are under tight restrictions since "to walk in the streets is very dangerous for us," one official says.

Officials are a little nervous about letting correspondents stay outside as it begins to get dark.

Few cars, with the exception of some old Mercedes, circulate on the shattered roads, where carts drawn by donkeys and bicycles are the most common means of transport.

All the women wear traditional Arab dress, the chador, and there appears to be a considerable number of young people handicapped by the war.

Sounds of firing are frequent, but it is difficult to tell who is shooting at whom. Afghan officials say the sound of gunfire comes from military exercises.

One Afghan Army officer however acknowledges that the rebels have been setting off "bombs" in Herat. An official said it was dangerous to walk the streets and they observed strict security.

Afghanistan's third largest city had 90,000 inhabitants before the war began years ago, and more people have flooded in due to the destruction of surrounding villages.

The Jamiyat-e Eslami, a moderate Sunni Moslem faction in the seven-party rebel alliance based in Pakistan, is the main mujahidin force in the area.

The rebels have suffered fierce Soviet and Afghan offensives in recent years but continue to threaten [as received], using bases over the nearby Iranian border.

Herat is one of five Afghan provinces—of a total of 31—where the Soviets plan to stay after August 15, when around half of their 115,000 troops in the country are due to be withdrawn under the Geneva accords.

A Soviet column from the south of the country passes a portrait of Iran leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on its way to the Soviet border and home.

Troops hold their weapons tightly as they leave the city, aware that the 120 kilometers (70 miles) may not be easy.

Rebels Report Bombing of Jalalabad City, Airport
BK1408114488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1118 GMT 14 Aug 88

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 14 (AFP)—Afghan rebels have been bombarding Jalalabad and its airport for several days and residents are trying to flee the strategic city in eastern Afghanistan, resistance sources said Sunday.

Rockets hit Jalalabad's airport last week, killing 11 people and injuring several others, as well as destroying a helicopter, the pro-resistance Afghan Information Center said in a statement published Sunday in Peshawar, northwest Pakistan.

The Afghan mujahidin resistance also fired rockets on Jalalabad, capital of eastern Nangarhar Province, and several military posts near the garrison city, the resistance sources said.

Artillery and rocket fire from the Soviet-backed Afghan Army fell into Pakistani territory early last week, leaving nine people dead and several wounded, according to the Afghan Information Center, which has close ties with moderate factions in the mujahidin.

Families from Jalalabad had arrived in nearby Pakistan as others tried to take refuge in non-strategic areas not threatened by the mujahidin, sources said. Afghan Army patrols frequently stop the refugees and make them return to the city, they added.

Most of the Jalalabad market has been closed for several days, they said.

The sources said a cholera epidemic hit Nangarhar Province, killing several people in rebel-controlled areas.

On Sunday and Monday, the mujahidin fired rockets on several Army posts in Nangarhar Province, including Ghani Kheyl, Achin, Momand Dara and Nader Shah Kowt.

Afghan artillery responded by firing on rebel-held villages and positions.

Several Army rockets hit Pakistani territory in the northwestern Khyber District with no casualties reported.

Early last week the Afghan Army fired several rockets from Afghanistan's northeastern Konarha Province which fell in northwestern Pakistan in the districts of Bajaur and Mohmand, killing nine people and injuring several, the Afghan Information Center said.

Soviet troops have left Nangarhar, but several hundred civilian and military "advisers" have remained in the province, especially at Jalalabad's military airport, diplomatic sources said.

Soviet "advisers" were not mentioned in an accord signed April 14 in Geneva under which half the Red Army forces, or 50,000 troops, which entered Afghanistan in December 1979, are to withdraw by Monday, observers here noted.

Moscow is to withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan by February 15, 1989, under the accord.

Jalalabad, strongly defended by the elite 11th Division of the Afghan Army, is a strategic post that controls access to Kabul, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) to the west, and to the Sarowbi power stations serving Kabul.

16 People, Rebel 'Ringleader' Killed
LD1408201488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] As a result of clashes in Chahar Bulaq District, Balkh, and Seyyedabad District, Vardak Province, 17 people from both sides—including Shah Muhammad, a ringleader of the extremist groups—were killed and 3 were injured.

Mujahidin Capture Strategic Post in Konarha
BK1508082088 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the freedom fighters are reported to have captured a strategic post in Konarha Province. The fall of the post follows a struggle for 1 and ½ month in which 15 mujahidin were martyred and 40 others wounded. The Afghan News Agency says the capture of the post will pave the way for the fall of the nearby Asmar Town.

Government Forces Recapture Town of Konduz
BK1508100688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0955 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug 15 (AFP)—Government forces have retaken the town of Konduz in northern Afghanistan which guerrillas captured last week, Afghan President Najibullah said Monday.

Mr. Najibullah, who made the announcement at a press conference, did not say when government forces retook the town.

The situation in Konduz was still "very complex," he said, adding that it had not been necessary to send special forces to retake the town.

Soviet forces completed their evacuation from Konduz on August 8 as Moscow moved to withdraw half its estimated 115,000 troops from Afghanistan by Monday in accordance with the Geneva peace accords.

The mujahidin took the town Wednesday.

Official sources here however, said Friday that government forces retained control of Konduz Airport.

General Boris Gromov, commander-in-chief of Soviet forces in Afghanistan, vowed on Sunday that the situation in Konduz would be "normalised" within the next few days.

A Soviet official told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here Monday that Afghan Government forces began their counter-attack against the rebels "a day ago."

Government Protests Pakistani Airspace Violation
LD1208175588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] An Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman reports that the charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry yesterday morning. The director of the ministry's First Political Department told him the following:

According to reports from Afghan security authorities, a Pakistani aircraft intruded into Afghan airspace over Orgun by 70 km at 1950 on 4 August. The Afghan Government strongly protests to the Pakistani Government over this violation by its Air Force and calls on the appropriate Pakistani authorities to refrain from repeating such irresponsible actions, which only aggravate the situation. Otherwise the Pakistani authorities will be held responsible for their grave consequences.

The spokesman adds that the charge d'affaires of the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad was recently summoned to Pakistan's Foreign Ministry. He was told that three Afghan aircraft had intruded into Pakistan at 0150 on 14 August [as heard—BAKHTAR English reports, heavily garbled in places, state 4 August] and had bombed the region of (Razmat), in the southeast of North Waziristan.

Following investigation, the appropriate Afghan authorities report that these accusations by the Pakistani authorities are completely unfounded and untrue. So the Pakistani protest is totally irrelevant and is rejected. The Government of Pakistan is requested not to strain the atmosphere created as a result of the Geneva accords and the efforts of the Afghan side to normalize relations between the two countries by leveling such untrue accusations. Otherwise, the Pakistani authorities will be held responsible for the consequences of such accusations.

Watanjar Cited on Soviet-Afghan Space Flight
LD1408093588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0415 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, August 13, BAKHTAR—Colonel Muhammad Dawran and Senior Captain 'Abdul Ahad are two Afghan pilots who were accepted as candidates for the Afghan-Soviet joint space flight following advanced and detailed medical check up. They are two officers of the Afghan Army, an army which has played its decisive role in the triumph of the April revolution, said Muhammad Aslam Watanjar in an interview here.

The selection of two outstanding Afghan pilots for the joint space flight is of exceptional importance and the Armed Forces of Afghanistan take pride in them. This space flight is conducted at a time when the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation has been proclaimed by the Afghan Government and it has resulted in the signing of Geneva agreements, despite obstacles created by the enemies of the peace policy, he continued.

To sum up, this space flight proves once again for our people and the world public the strengthening of historic Afghan-Soviet friendship. As President Najibullah, supreme commander of the Armed Forces stated, "we have kept high the prestige of the Afghan-Soviet friendship since centuries and we will raise it higher than the peaks of Hindu Kush, such is the real fraternity, higher than which nothing exists in the world."

The space flight is also of great international importance because the 19th national conference of the CPSU CC laid stress once again on the new political system and the process of restructuring under which the foreign and domestic policies of the Soviet Union are successfuly forging ahead, he noted.

"As regards measures taken for the Afghan-Soviet joint space flight, I should say that the preparatory group signed during its first trip to Moscow a protocol with Soviet authorities. All responsibilities of the candidates of both sides have been anticipated in the protocol," the minister said.

Our beloved homeland Afghanistan, Watanjar noted, is a country with plenty of mineral resources untapped so far. Utilizing sensitive photographic equipment and other modern and advanced systems in this space flight, the location and size of these deposits will be determined. Thanks to the space flight, adequate information will be obtained on earth structure, snow formations, water springs, lakes, glaciers and agricultural lands that will enable intensive work to be carried out later on these national resources, the Aynak copper mine of Lowgar, Pol-e Khomri and the north-eastern desert of Shebergh an will be photographed in this space flight and studied.

More coal, salt, petroleum and gas mines will be discovered by this space flight and the areas of unexplored mines determined.

By applying the results of these researches, tangible changes will occur in our socio-economic and cultural life.

"In conclusion I should say this space flight is a matter of pride not only to the Armed Forces but all the people of Afghanistan. This flight, I am sure, will successfully be concluded and will please our people," he said.

Political Commentator Cited on Soviet Withdrawal

LD1408222388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] The first stage of the withdrawal of Soviet troops will end tomorrow, 15 August, in line with the timetable set in the Geneva agreements. The BIA political commentator writes: The 15th of August 1988 shows well that the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are faithful to their undertakings under the Geneva agreements and so far have implemented them seriously. Based on mutual agreement between the Reublic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, as clarified in the Geneva agreements, the withdrawal of the Soviet military units started on 15 May 1988. Now its first stage is being completed successfully, in line with the timetable. Evidence shows that the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have been truthful and sincere in implementing the Geneva agreements in this stage. The Soviet Union is serious about withdrawing its forces from Afghanistan in accordance with the timetable. There are now no Soviet forces in 25 Afghan provinces. Security and military affairs in these province have been totally transfered to the Armed Forces of the country. The heroic Afghan Armed Forces, with patriotism and the support of the people, defend territorial integrity, state sovereignty, and peace and security across the country.

The Republic of Afghanistan has arranged all facilities for the return of refugees in line with the Geneva agreements and is looking forward to their return to their fatherland. And, it is prepared to start building and rehabilitating the national economy while simultaneously solving the situation around Afghanistan and putting an end to fratricide in the country.

The practical measures of Afghanistan and the USSR to further implement the Geneva instruments have been well reflected in the recent visit of Eduard Shevardnadze, the USSR foreign minister, and in his meetings with Esteemed Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, and with other leaders of the Republic of Afghanistan. In an interview with a BIA reporter, the Soviet foreign minister said: Our help to Afghanistan, is peaceful and constructive. Our forces are withdrawing from Afghanistan, but friendship and cooperation remain.

These statements are very important and in total keeping with the Geneva instruments. It shows that the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are implementing step-by-step the Geneva instruments, which have been signed by the Republic of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the special envoy of the UN secretary general. The Soviet Union and the United States of America also signed it as guarantors.

It is no secret that the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have so far strictly observed the Geneva agreements. But as for Pakistan and the United States, they have been a cause for concern in the solution of the Afghan situation since the signing of the Geneva agreements. Recent developments show that despite the hopes of the people of Afghanistan and the good will of the UN secretary general, and contrary to world public opinion, Pakistan and the United States violate the Geneva agreements. Not only have they not taken any steps to implement the Geneva instruments, but they have even given a large amount of lethal arms to the forces opposing the Republic of Afghanistan. They train, arm, and finance the extremists in Pakistan. They kill innocent people in our country. The Republic of Afghanistan to date has submitted 69 protest notes to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan concerning Pakistani violations of the Geneva agreements, specifying the places, circumstances, and dates of the violations.

Many times the Western press has pointed out Pakistani and U.S. violations of the agreements. One BBC correspondent made an eyewitness report of hundreds of trucks being sent to Afghanistan from Pakistan. On 10 August, West German Radio insisted that the Soviet Union would reduce its forces in Afghanistan by 15 August as envisaged in the Geneva agreements. But what will happen then? Indisputably, Pakaistan is not honoring its commitments in the Geneva documents, according to which it would refrain from interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

After the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from along the Afghanistan-Pakistan borders, mujahidin are given arms without delay by Pakistan. It can be seen that Pakistan wants to pack its arsenal with Western arms, especially arms from the United States. THE INDEPENDENT newspaper of Britain wrote on 6 August that 400 rockets had been fired at Kabul since the signing of the Geneva agreements. All of them were fired by Afghan mujahidin. And these rockets were given to the mujahidin by Pakistan.

All this is irrefutable evidence of violations of the Geneva agreements by Pakistan and the United States. The nonobservance of the Geneva agreements by Pakistan cannot continue without affecting the situation. Extremists fire long-range rockets at residential areas. They kill children, women, and other innocent people. Those responsible for this bloodshed are the ones violating the Geneva agreements.

India

President Addresses Nation on Independence Day

BK1408145988 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1435 GMT 14 Aug 88

[President R. Venkataraman's address to the nation on the eve of the 41st anniversary of India's independence—recorded]

[Text] Friends: Tomorrow we will be celebrating the 41st anniversary of our independence. On this auspicious

occasion I extend my warm felicitations to all Indian nationals residing within and outside the country. August 15 is a date with emotional appeal. It reverberates with echoes of the immortal slogans of our freedom struggle. The celebrated call of Mahatma Gandhi—Do or die; the declaration of Lokmanya Tilak—Swaraj [independence] is our birthright; the song of Subramania Bharati—Viduthalai, Viduthalai; and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's vibrant order of the day—Dilli Chalo [march to Delhi]. Above all, August 15 brings to mind the image of Jawahar Lal Nehru, with his radiant enthusiasm for our future, hoisting the national flag on the ramparts of the Red Fort. We are also reminded today of the song on the flag that we sang throughout the country during our long and arduous struggle: Vijayee Vishwa Tiranga Pyara, Jhanda Ooncha Rahe Hamara [Indian national hymn].

Let us this day pay our reverential homage to the heroic leaders who fought under that banner. Let us also pay our homage to the countless foot-soldiers of the struggle who fought in its various phases sacrificing their homes, studies and jobs for the sole satisfaction of achieving swaraj. Gandhiji once said: The word swaraj is a sacred word, a Vedic word, meaning self-rule and self-restraint, and not freedom from restraint which independence often means. As we look back over the four decades of swaraj, we can derive legitimate pride over the fact that self-rule has come to be truly and firmly established in our country. The democratic form of governance—which is based on the principle of self-restraint—has taken firm and unshakeable root in our soil.

Eight general elections have been held in the country since independence, apart from numerous other elections to the state legislatures and individual by-elections. All these have shown the maturity and decisiveness of the Indian electorate. The Indian voter has, indeed, become conscious of his political rights and though he may be unlettered and wearing the humblest clothes, he is using the electoral process skillfully for democratic self-expression.

A polity has thus come into being in India which represents and reflects Indian opinion in all its vibrant diversity. The tree of Indian democracy is today strong of root and large of girth, but like all trees this one also attracts the illicit woodcutter's eye. I refer to certain elements in our society which for their own selfish and narrow ends seek to undercut and undermine the electoral process. No words can be too strong to condemn the saboteurs of parliamentary democracy in our country. To interfere with and thereby to seek to thwart the mechanism of the ballot is to lay an axe at the very foundations of our polity. Political parties whether ruling or in opposition have a grave responsibility for ensuring fair and free elections. I would appeal to all parties to remember Gandhiji's words about the twin ingredients of swaraj, namely, self-rule and self-restraint. Let all political parties and groups make sure that no one acting in their name takes liberties with election procedures. Election ethics are not a matter of procedure alone. They are the veritable life-breath of the political system which our people have given unto themselves. Free and fair elections are the fountain heads of democracy. Let not the source be sullied. In this, all political parties and groups, as well as administrators and the police in charge of election arrangements will have to regard themselves as trustees of the voters' sovereignty. They will have to act with integrity and impartiality. I would also like to share with fellow-citizens today my fervent hope that the elected representatives of our people will always so act as to justify the trust reposed in them.

I am reminded on this occasion of a statement made by Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on the day he assumed the office of the chairman of the Rajya Sabha: A democracy is likely to degenerate into a tyranny if it does not allow the opposition groups to criticize fairly, freely, and frankly the policies of the government. But at the same time, their right of criticism should not degenerate into willful hampering and obstruction of the work of Parliament. These words of our sagacious former president, whose birth centenary falls this year, deserve our deepest attention. The functioning of our legislatures ought to be a source of inspiration and encouragement to our people in the face of their many challenges.

Friends, as you are aware, the rhythms of normal activity in some parts of the country have been repeatedly disrupted by terrorist attacks which leave a trail of innocent blood. Simple men, women, and children who have nothing to do with politics, much less with the politics of extremism, are the victims of these attacks. The killing in Punjab of those who have spoken up for communal harmony and the unity of our country, has caused the greatest anguish to me. Government is, of course, addressing itself to the task of meeting the terrorist challenge at many levels. But violence cannot be met or countered by any quarter other than by the people themselves refusing to be cowed down into fear or hatred. I would also urge our people to continue to hold fast to the values of tolerance, friendship, and amity that have marked our national life down the ages. Let communal hatreds which are aberrations in our national life, belong to the past. And may peace prevail in the country.

The outlook for world peace in the meantime, has taken a positive turn. In the area of disarmament, the exchange of the instruments of ratification of the INF treaty at the Moscow summit has been a welcome development. There is a growing realization by all the peoples and almost all the governments of the world, of the urgent need to rid the world of nuclear weapons. It is to further this objective that India proposed a time-bound action plan for ushering in a nuclear weapon-free and non-violent world order at the recently held third special session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The action plan gives operational form

to the principles and ideas of the five continent peace initiative and the Nonaligned Movement. The plan underscores our belief that non-violence and the principle of peaceful co-existence are crucial to the world and, particularly, to the developing countries. Our country cannot afford to divert its energies from the tasks of development.

Last year, when I addressed you on the eve of independence day, the nation was in the grip of a serious drought. The rains had failed in large parts of the country for three years in a row. It is gratifying that notwithstanding that lean period and a resultant decline in food production, our strong buffer stock and efficient public distribution system absorbed the shock. We are happy that despite the severe drought the food production was lower only by less than 5 percent as compared to the previous year. Likewise, despite the set back caused by drought, the industrial sector achieved a growth of about 8 percent and our overall power generation increased by 7.5 percent over the previous year.

This year the monsoons have been favorable. I am confident that widespread and copious rains will restore the pace of progress in all sectors. While the overall position in respect of the monsoons is heartening, the havoc caused by floods in Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat have distressed us all deeply. They point once more to the need for a long-term plan for dealing with such natural calamities. Be it disaster-relief or disaster-avoidance, or be it any other area of activity, the agencies of the state and the people must pool their resources and work together.

Nationhood consists of a partnership between the people of a country and its government. This partnership cannot function without both proceeding in unison. Let us then march, shoulder to shoulder and hand in hand, towards a fulfillment of our swaraj through self-rule and self-restraint.

I will conclude with a stanza composed by Namakkal Ramalingam Pillai, the illustrious Tamil poet, whose birth centenary falls this year: Never forgetting Gandhi, never abandoning compassion, never deviating from the path of truth and peace, let our country's freedom be a beaconlight unto all mankind. Jai Hind [Hail India].

Gandhi Addresses Nation on Independence Day

BK1508051688 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi 0200 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the 41st anniversary of India's independence—live]

[Text] Countrymen, brothers, and sisters: I want to extend my good wishes to you on the occasion of Independence Day. This year the monsoon was very good and I want to congratulate all our farmers and agricultural workers, both brothers and sisters, because we have waited for such a monsoon for several years. [applause]

Today, on 15th August, we must review both the past as well as the future. On one hand, we shall look to the future to decide the country's direction and on how progress can be brought to the people. On the other, we shall assess our past deeds and discuss possible reforms.

When we look back over the past 4 years, the first thing comes to mind is the great changes brought about in the economic situation in the country. We must take into account the heavy monsoon in 1984-85 and the drought of 1986. There was also unprecedented drought last year. However, despite all these calamities the country moved forward steadily. We successfully fought last year's drought. The central government in Delhi took immeditate steps and acted very firmly. We made all out efforts not to bring politics into the drought issue and we gave our full attention to the people who suffered from the drought conditions and to the assistance they required. We worked on this problem all last year.

Our full attention was fixed on the people, and not on other matters. Because of this, India overcame the severe drought and our development pace was not halted, although it slowed somewhat. Even then we moved forward, and moved forward firmly. The world has seen how India faced this drought and it began to understand that India has become a strong nation capable of handling a big crisis. Nobody can today trample on India or stop its progress. [applause]

Today, I want to congratulate those people who joined together to combat this drought. They were part of various organizations, political, administrative, or various volunteer groups. However, the greatest congratulations should go to the farmers and agricultural workers of those droughtstricken areas who survived with firm determination. As I stated, there was drought, but still the country continued to develop. The country has marched forward with speed. The performance of our infrastructure was very good. Similarly, India's industrialization also continued; we did not allow it to slow down or stop. For the very first time, the country's development work was not affected while experiencing such a difficult situation. First, we did not go begging with bowl in hand. This is a matter of pride and prestige, and we have attained it only because the fruits of Panditji's [Nehru] and Indira Gandhi's performance over the past 40 years are with us today.

Despite these difficulties, we have not neglected the poor. We have further strengthened the programs to combat poverty, whether for women, for the development of children, or for backward classes or tribal people, and we have speedily implemented them. Never before has so much money been allocated to alleviate and remove poverty. However, there are still some

incidents that distress us. A sad incident in Jahanabad [in Bihar] recently hurt our national prestige and we shall ensure that such an incident will not happen again.

I know that at times our laws have loopholes and our actions cannot be fully implemented. If the need arises, we will amend the laws and see to it that no such incident [of atrocities on weaker sections] is repeated and that those responsible are punished appropriately and promptly. Similarly, we must see that our minorities are given full opportunity to move forward and participate in national construction. Our weaker sections need out help and assistance, which we shall provide. We must see that the backward classes in our country are helped and given the opportunity to move forward.

The economic situation has been strong over the past few years. Similarly, we have strengthened the political system in the country as well. If you recall what the conditions were in November 1984 when our government came to power, you will remember that a black cloud was hovering over the country. Only one question was on the minds of people concerning the future: Will India remain united or disintegrate. Indira Gandhi was assassinated. Riots and disturbances were taking place in Delhi. Punjab was in a bad state; a movement had started in Assam; a campaign in Mizoram was being launched; terrorism was rife in Tripura; a new movement started in the Darjeeling Hill Areas in West Bengal; and our Tamil population in the south were unsatisfied because of the Tamil problem in Sri Lanka.

Today, we can see a great improvement. An accord has been concluded in Sri Lanka which we hope to fulfill soon. The dissatisfaction witnessed in southern India has now been removed. An agreement has been reached in Darjeeling and peace has been restored. Similarly, a settlement has been concluded in Tripura ending the terrorism there. The Mizoram accord has also brought peace there. Peace has also come to Assam. Many changes have taken place in Punjab as well, but not to the extent we desired. If we look at Punjab then in 1984, and now in 1988, you will see a great change. There is no feeling of ill will. Our administration is now functioning strongly. Today the people of Punjab are on the side of the country. Today every citizen of Punjab strongly opposes terrorism and extremism.

We have shown in the past days that wherever the Indian Government wants to take a firm and strong position and show firmness, it can do so effectively. Operation Black Thunder [to flush out Punjab terrorists from the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar last May] a few months ago showed not only our people but the entire world that the Indian security forces can operate with full discipline and strength. [applause] In addition, we proved that the terrorists only believe in terrorism and they have no place for any faith in their minds and hearts. Their misdeeds at that holy place [Golden Temple] have, perhaps, no parallel and have never taken place in any holy place of India. We have never before witnessed such desecration and we hope that we will not see such a thing in any holy place of India in the future. At the borders we are taking urgent measures to see that no border crossings take place and to control the terrorists. We regret that even now they [the terrorists] are getting assistance from across the border and we hope that the people on the other side will soon realize the seriousness of their mistake. We do not want to be forced to take actions that will make them think or need to repent at a later stage.

During recent years, we have completely changed the spirit of the country. Today we see a strong country moving forward with pride and patience, as compared to the dark days and demoralizing spirit of 1984. Today nobody raises the question of the country's disintegration because India has shown the world that it is such a powerful nation that nobody can weaken it. However, we have one weakness we must eradicate completely. We must eliminate the problem of communal forces from our country. We must make arrangements for our secular system to be strengthened. We have to see that nobody mixes religion with politics. If legal or any other type of action is required to prevent this, then we will do so. However, we will strongly confront the communal forces. We will try to bring every one together on this issue. We will unite all those who want to oppose the communal forces. We will march forward together to counter these forces. We have always tried to the secular character of India is maintain and further strengthen.

We have also paid great attention to India's security over the past years. Today our forces are very strong stronger than ever before. Today we can face agression from many sides, something that was not possible in the past. Also we have greatly encouraged the scientific and technological wing of our defense forces, our research and development wing. For the first time our technology has advanced to the forefront and is competing with advanced nations. In many fields, we have reached the same level as that of advanced nations. We hope that in the coming years we will pursue this path more single-mindedly and thereby show to the world that India can stand firmly on its own feet, confronting any challenge. Nobody can divert us from our path. [applause]

On this occasion I want to congratulate all my brothers and sisters in the Armed Forces on their work, discipline, and dedication. We sleep with peacefully in India every day because of the strength of our Armed Forces.

Similarly, during the past few years we have greatly enhanced India's name in the world. We want to have friendship with all nations. We desire the creation of worldwide unity so that everyone's attention is focused on eradicating poverty and assisting the poor. We want Mahatama Gandhi's principles of nonviolence and tolerance to be spread throughout the world and we want to see these principles spread to every corner of the world. Through the Nonaligned Movement we have sent this message to 101 nations. However, we have even gone

beyond this and sent this message to those nations who have never believed in these principles. The superpowers are also familiar with these principles and feel their impact. We hope we will be able to pursue this path with determination and spread a new message of peace, tolerance, and the unity and progress of mankind in the world. Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru showed us the way, Indira Gandhi pursued this path, and we will firmly adhere to this path and not deviate from it.

We want friendship with our neighboring states. We want to work and talk together for the development of our people. That is why we institutied SAARC which has made great strides. However, even now there are many difficulties and the path is arduous, but we are not making it difficult. There is friendship and tolerance in our hearts and we want our region to become strong. We will work more assiduously toward this goal.

There was a movement in neighboring Afghanistan. We are very happy that an agreement has been reached and peace will return there. But it is necessary that the people follow the Geneva agreements and not deviate from them. If this agreement this broken, then weaknesses will appear. Then forces will emerge and begin to weaken the entire region. We hope that all parties will adhere to the Geneva agreement and not undermine it.

There is only one corner in the world where today racial discrimination still exists. Apartheid is practised today in South Africa. India confronted apartheid even before its independence under the leadership of Mahatama Gandhi and Jawahar Lal Nehru and raised its voice against it. Today also, we raise our voice calling for an end to apartheid, work against it, and we will not stop until apartheid and slavery is eliminated from the world.

Similarly, India strongly supports the Palestinian movement. We want an agreement to be reached soon. We want Palestinians to have their own state in their homeland, and we want to see peace in that part of the world.

If poverty is to be eradicated, if weaker nations are to advance rapidly, then there is a great need for disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament. India has launched this campaign with full force and determination as no one else has. We were the first to propose a plan at the United Nations to bring about worldwide disarmament and spread the message of peace. For the first time, a plan has been proposed which could be implemented by everybody. We hope that people will pursue this path, but we know that this cannot be implemented quickly because this path is not very easy.

Forty years ago Jawahar Lal Nehru outlined a new foreign policy based on Gandhian principles. About 30 years ago he hoisted the banner of nonalignment and today we see that the first step has been taken on the disarmament issue, which he raised at that time. An agreement to eliminate the nuclear weapons has been reached now, 30 to 35 years after Jawahar Lal Nehru first raised this issue. Therefore, we know that this task is not easy nor we will able to overcome it soon. But what we do know is that if there is to be peace in the world, if nations like India are to progress and become strong, and above all, if we are to assist the poor, then the money spent on armaments must be terminated and the total amount saved used to eliminate poverty and uplift humanity. We are also advancing with determination in this movement and we will not allow any weakness to interfere with it.

In the past, India's image has been further enhanced in the world. It has earned great recognition and participated in many important plans. We hope that in the years to come India will participate in world affairs with greater determination and explain India's historic ideology to the people of the world. Only then will we will be able take Gandhi's decisions and principles to all corners of the world.

But today on the 15th August we also must look toward the future We have to see what challenges face India. There are many challenges, but if I have to mention two such challenges to you, then the first is poverty and unemployment, and second is to make India great, that is to take India to that pivotal position where India was before slavery. [applause]

There is much to done to eliminate poverty. We have started many projects, initiated many plans, but still much needs to be done. If we are to remove poverty speedily and provide employment to the people, then we must first and foremost consider the situation in rural areas. When we look at the rural areas or the farmers or agricultural workers, we see great difficulties facing them. Our foremost efforts are directed toward helping this sector progress.

If we really want agricultural development, then we must seriously consider land reform. Without land reform, particularly in eastern India, the green revolution cannot reach there. We must consider this very seriously and urgently and try to resolve it.

We have noticed in past years that our plan, our agricultural plan, was one plan, whether it concerned the plains or mountains or the desert farm, or the southern India farm. We have changed all this and have divided the country into 15 agroclimatic zones and now we closely scrutinize the problems of the farmer, such as the state of his land, how he gets water, how much fertilizer he needs, what type of seeds he wants, and what type of crops he should grow there. This is the first time anyone has considered the problems of the farmers so minutely. We believe that our agricultural sector will progress at a great pace this year. Our goal is to bring our agricultural production target once again to a high level and we must strive to reach the target we set 3 years earlier because this is the only was we can help the farmers and agricultural workers.

However, today we are facing another major question. In the past 40 to 50 years our population has increased tremendously. Even though much has been done in the development field, the result is that 30 to 40 persons now live in 1 bigha [Indian land measurement] of land where 3 or 4 lived before. On the other hand, roads have been built, and hospitals, schools, and other facilities have been set up on land that was previously being cultivated. There was development, but [farming] land has been reduced.

We now have to decide how many people can live on one unit of land. Then we have to decide on how to provide employment to others. It is essential that employment be provided in rural areas. If we are to end unemployment, we must start in the rural areas. This is what we are going to do.

We have see how value addition [last two words in English] can be made on the production of farmers: how we can process the product so that the farmers will have better markets and better prices, how small factories can be built so that the agricultural produce can be sent abroad. We wish to show the work of our farmers to the people of the world, and we want to export our agricultural equipment, vegetables, and crops. We are looking into it, and I have drawn the government's attention in this direction. We hope that in this way development will rapidly expand, particularly in the backward rural areas.

At the same time, we want industrialization to expand quickly, because without speedy industrialization employment cannot be provided and unemployment eliminated. We must discover new areas where we can provide employment. The world is changing, industries are changing, and people's lifestyles are changing, and along with this, we must look for employment in new areas. We have started this task apace, and we believe you will find in the coming months and years great changes in the country's map. The country is becoming strong. Our poor people and our youths are finding many jobs and we are advancing rapidly.

There is one big weakness which we can not yet surmount. I receive many complaints stating that our programs never reach rural areas, land, and people's homes in complete form. We have to assess why this happens. I have held several long meetings about this, and one conclusion has emerged: Until and unless we strengthen the local bodies organizations and hand over the responsibilities to the people at the lower level [of administration], this objective cannot be achieved.

Mahatma Gandhi said it clearly: My idea of independence is not that power should be vested in a few hands only, but that people should develop the capability to resist the misuse of power. This is what we want to achieve. If it requires a change in the law or an amendment to the Constitution, we will surely do it. There will be no going back. We want to see that complete power goes to the people, because we know that only in this way we can implement our programs and bring them to you.

But today, when we look to the future, we have to look at our nation, our country, and think about what kind of India we want to build. We will eradicate poverty and unemployment, but what will be the destiny of the nation? Our endeavors should be directed toward leading the country to the same zenith, to the same lofty position India once occupied. Some 250-300 years ago, people from all corners of the world used to travel to India, to explore India. We will lift India to its past lofty position only when we strengthen its unity and integrity and face all those who want to weaken it. India becomes strong when its all parts are strong. But India remains strong only when the Center is strong. No one must weaken the Center. The Center will enjoy its full powers, and we will not let its powers be curtailed in any way.

Like you, I have also inherited the legacy of India. We are marching forward following the traditions of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru, and Indira Gandhi. We have to ensure that we move forward according to their ideologies and thoughts. We must remember that we must follow the path of Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru, and Indira Gandhi. However, at the same time, we must remember we must give answers to the problems and the issues we face today. We cannot get these answers in history. We must chart a course for India boldly, energetically, and thoughtfully.

We must remember to always be ready to make any sacrifice. Gandhi made sacrifices; Indira Gandhi sacrificed her life. Thus, every one of us should be ready to make any sacrifice. Likewise, I am also ready to make any sacrifice to build a powerful India, to help it march forward [applause], to ensure it a position in the world, and to lift it to its greatest height.

Today, we ought to make a vow to eliminate poverty and unemployment from India and make it a great country. To do this, we will be ready to make any sacrifice required of us. Today, on the 15th of August, I pledge that with your cooperation we will take India to the same lofty position which it held in the past. Thank you. [applause]

Gandhi Sends Message on Pakistan Independence Day
BK1408034488 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has greeted the people of Pakistan on the occasion of their independence day today. In a message to President Ziaul Haq, Mr Gandhi reiterated India's commitment to the establishment of cordial relations between the two countries on the basis of the Simla Agreement.

11 Pakistani 'Intruders' Killed in Kashmir

BK1408075688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 11 Pakistani intruders were killed last night in an encounter with the BSF [Border Security Force]. The inspector general of BSF, Jammu Range, Mr P.C. Dogra, told the AIR Jammu correspondent that the encounter took place around 2300 when they intruded into the Indian territory through the Basanta River bed and they did not stop when challenged by the BSF patrol party. Some incriminating documents have been recovered from them. Details are awaited. A Pakistani had been killed in the same area yesterday and another one in the nearby Ranbirsinghpura sector 2 days ago.

Sikh Temple Committee Reappoints Head Priest

BK1408032588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] The SGPC has reappointed Mr Darshan Singh Ragi as head priest of the Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion]. A meeting of the SGPC executive held at Tarn Taran yesterday appointed Mr Manjit Singh Kalkatta as secretary of the body in place of Mr Bhan Singh who was gunned down by terrorists in Ludhiana last month.

Meanwhile in the state, two persons have been killed and one seriously injured in separate incidents of terrorist activities since last night. In Ropar District, terrorists killed head granthi [priest], Hardayal Singh, of Gurdwara Chamkour Saheb early this morning. In Amritsar District, terrorists opened fire in village Chainpur, killing one farmer and seriously injuring another.

Bomb in Bus Kills 3, Injures 20 Near Chandigarh

BK1208171988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] In Haryana, three passengers were killed and twenty injured, six of them seriously, when a powerful bomb exploded in a state roadways bus at Panchkula near Chandigarh this evening. The bus was on its from Chandigarh to Shahzadpur. The injured have been rushed to the hospital. An official spokesman has said the possibility of a terrorist attack cannot be ruled out. The chief minister, Mr Devi Lal, has appealed to the people in the state not to be provoked and maintain communal harmony.

'Informal' Talks With LTTE Suspended

BK1208115888 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] India has suspended talks with the LTTE. This was stated by the minister of state for external affairs, K. Natwar Singh, in New Delhi yesterday. The minister told the Indian Parliament that informal talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have been suspended because they proved inconclusive due to the group's continuing recalcitrance. He did not say when the talks were broken off. He said that informal contacts have been made in the last few months with the LTTE, which has an office in Madras.

Press reports have said Indian intelligence officials have been discussing with LTTE leaders in Madras on the possibility of ending the fighting. Mr Natwar Singh said any withdrawal of Indian troops from Sri Lanka at this stage was not desirable.

New Karnataka Chief Minister Appointed

BK1308131288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Mr S.R. Bommai is to be the new chief minister of Karnataka. He was unanimously elected leader of the Janata legislature party at its meeting in Bangalore today. Mr Bommai's name was proposed by the dissident Janata leader, Mr H.D. Deve Gowda, and seconded by the health minister, Mr Rachaiah.

Mr Bommai succeeds Mr Rama Krishna Hegde who resigned yesterday, owning moral responsibility for the telephone tapping. The swearing-in ceremony will take place tomorrow.

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

Postwar Piety Urged

LD1208151388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by President Khamene'i at Tehran University on 12 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] We should turn toward piety now because the postwar period is an extremely important and critical time for our nation. Unfortunately, right from its inception, the fate and destiny of our Islamic society was mixed and combined with military clashes. Nearly 1 and ½ years after the victory of the revolution and the establishment of the Islamic order, the imposed war started; nearly 8 years of war were imposed upon our nation and all the programs of the country were necessarily adopted to the war situation. In other words, the issue of the war dominated and had an influence upon all the programs of the country and the issue of the country. The presence of the war could be felt in all the country's events and activities, including its economic, development, or cultural affairs.

Of course, for our nation the war was a very, very valuable test and this 8-year history, this 105-month history, had great benefits for our nation to which I will briefly refer in the second sermon. We will see that in the course of these 8 years, the Iranian nation gained great

benefits from the result of its resistance and steadfastness. However, the postwar period is a very critical one. The postwar period can be used in two different ways. Many living nations of the world have made the best use of their postwar periods.

Look at some of the powerful nations today that enjoy a special distinction in the world with economic and political power and other powers, and you will see that they are the countries that were nearly destroyed during the two world wars. The war exerted a great deal of pressure on them. However, as a result of the willpower their nation gained during the war, as a result of the experiences they gained, and as a result of the national unity they achieved from the war, they succeeded in turning their postwar period into a period of construction and advancement toward economic growth. They succeeded in raising themselves to a high level from the viewpoint of material and worldly issues. This was the experience of determined and intelligent countries. One can make use of the war period as an inexhaustible deposit for the postwar period.

Another way of facing the postwar period would be the opposite; namely, a nation that has endured the difficulties of war over many long years may, after the war, like someone with no further duty to perform, like someone who has done his job, sit waiting for all the gates of blessings and prosperity to be opened before him without any effort. That nation does not believe that it has any further responsibility or any further duties to perform. If a country adopts the second path after passing through difficult period of the war and chooses the position of a demanding individual who expects his food to be prepared for him, to be placed in his mouth, to be entertained and looked after, if the nation expects its duty to be accomplished and does not engage in any further effort, for such a nation the war has certainly been a calamity and the postwar period will be another calamity. We have also seen such nations. [passage omitted]

Today we are at a crossroads. Our nation and all our officials are facing this crossroads. I cannot definitely say that the war has ended because our enemy is a dastardly enemy, a vicious enemy, a mischievous enemy. We do not know whether all that we have done that has brought us to the present juncture, which I will describe further in my second sermon, will enable us to achieve peace. However, if the war has really ended, if the postwar period has really begun, all the Iranian nation and the officials of the country are at a crossroads, and we should see which path they choose. This is where the issue of piety comes in. This is where, as the result of piety, all those things preventing a clear mind and powerful determination will be removed. Will our nation tighten its belt for a continuous effort? Are the people ready for joint construction in the country? Will the people maintain the sacred unity and solidarity they enjoyed throughout the war under the superior leadership and guidance of the leader of the revolution? Will people's self-sacrificing and devotion throughout the course of the war still continue?

If it is so, let me tell you that the future of the nation after the passage of a few years—not a very long time, just a few years—will be a very brilliant future. [crowd shouts approval]. It would be like someone who works hard and builds his house in 1 year and then lives in that house in comfort for 30 years. It would be like a farmer who works over his farm for a short period and endures hardship, but then reaps the benefits for a whole year. It would be like a gardener who takes care of his young trees as long as they need care and attention and then reaps their fruit over many years. This method is correct.

The postwar period is a period of hard work, a period of endeavor. It is a period requiring the solidarity of all the members of the nation. It is a period requiring the use of all the brains, all the efforts, and all the material and spiritual resources available. It is not a period for laziness, comfort-seeking, and inactivity. It is not a period for too many expectations. There should not be those who say that now that the war has ended all the difficulties resulting from the war should be eliminated overnight. Of course, they will certainly be eliminated, though not in a very short time, and not with laziness and inactivity. They will be eliminated with efforts, with mass endeavor; this is what is known as social piety.

Of course, in the first instance the responsibility rests upon our shoulders, as the officials of the country. By making use of capable people, by making use of the brains and active arms, by making use of people's strength, and by making use of the cooperation and sincerity which exists in our nation, the officials should, first of all, draw proper plans, clear, comprehensive, and precise plans. [passage omitted]

During the war, we got the opportunity to understand the difficulties. After the war, we should make use of the opportunity to remove these difficulties. The country's officials should make plans for public welfare, for the sake of eliminating poverty from society, implementing complete Islamic social justice, eliminating illiteracy, raising the level of revolutionary culture of the people, and making use of all our capabilities in completely reconstructing the country.

We should build our country as a model and exemplary Islamic country and should place it before the eyes of the world and say this is the kind of society Islam builds. This is our duty. By paying attention to this line and by paying attention to sublime Islamic values and the slogans of the revolution, officials should follow the line of reconstruction and the people should assist them in this task. Officials must perform their duties without the slightest feeling of fatigue. During this period, no official will be allowed to feel tired.

All the different sections of the country should collaborate with one another; they should help each other. While keeping the country's defensive capability strong and superior so the enemy will never again entertain the futile thought of aggression against our borders, inside the country too maximum effort should be made for the sake of reconstruction and development, for the sake of making use of all this land, all this water that is being wasted in different parts of the country, all the extensive mines that exist in the country, and above all for making use of human resources. They should concentrate their efforts on these points, and they should also make use of the people. [passage omitted]

Second Sermon

LD1208171788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1303 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Friday prayers sermon given by President 'Ali Khamene'i on 12 August at Tehran University—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] At the beginning of the second sermon I would like to apologize to you, dear brothers and sisters, for the distortion in my voice. I have partly lost my voice due to a cold: It is nothing serious, and I will of course recover, God willing. I tried to clear my chest for today so that my voice would not sound unpleasant to your ears: Unfortunately, I did not succeed. Will you please bear with me.

Our basic issue is to summarize the events of the 105-month-old war imposed on the Islamic Republic. Of course, I must offer my congratulations to all you dear ones on the eve of Muharram. [Arabic lunar new year beginning 14 August] [passage omitted]

I wish to present a short report on the events of the past 3 weeks. The Islamic Republic's declaration of acceptance of UN Resolution 598 had two very important and essential results and benefits. The first benefit was that at this time we deemed the cease-fire was in the interest of the revolution and the country. As you heard in the remarks made by the responsible officials and the message of our dear imam, as a result of some factors and events—the details of which should become clear to our people in the future, God willing—the responsible state officials, along with the great imam, came to the conclusion that at that time, the termination of the war was in the interest of Islam and the Muslims. This issue will become clear to some extent in my summing up of the war. This was one advantage, that is, the announcement of accepting the resolution led to the cease-fire. This was in our interest and was acceptable to us.

The second benefit was that in the wake of accepting the resolution, the Iraqi regime would expose its true nature, and contrary to its peace-seeking claims, it would demonstrate that its moves of the past few years, when it was in a completely weak position, had been hypocritical. This was very valuable to us.

We would therefore reap two benefits, two major benefits, from the announcement of the resolution. [as heard] One is that we would attain what we wanted and what we considered to be in our interest, that is, the end of the war. Second, we would expose the Iraqi regime and would achieve political success in the world.

The Iraqi regime was confounded in the face of the unexpected action of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It was confounded, not knowing what to do. If it wanted its warmongering face not to be exposed, it had to immediately accept the cease-fire. That was desirable for us; our first benefit would be realized. If it did not want to yield to the cease-fire, which we saw as being in our interest, and to the ending of the war, which we wanted, and which we saw as in our interest, then it would have to refuse to accept. Then its hypocritical face would be exposed. The second benefit would then have been attained for us. In other words, whatever the Iraqi regime did, we would reap some benefit. Either it would accept, and that would have been beneficial for us, or else it would reject, and that still would have been beneficial for us.

In such a situation, the Iraqi regime did the worst possible thing. In other words, it did the most unpolitical and the most unwise thing it could have done. It did something which gave us both benefits at once. First, when we announced acceptance of the resolution, it opposed the cease-fire. It said: I will pose these conditions; it announced five [as heard] preconditions. Five preconditions, one of which was direct talks before a cease-fire. It spoke about Arvand River; it spoke about the Persian Gulf; it spoke about political issues. It announced five preconditions, and this was interpreted in the world as nonacceptance of the resolution, rejection of the resolution.

Iraqi officials at the United Nations, with their contradictory interviews and various assertions, left Iraq with no political prestige. The world acknowledged that the Iraqi regime is a warmonger. That was its first act which led to the attainment of our first aim—the exposure of Iraqi's warmongering face and the tearing away of the veil of duplicity it had created with its peace-loving slogans.

After it had continued that stance for 2-3 weeks; after it had constantly, in various ways, and by taking various political poses, made its own face uglier to the world; after the gradual raising of the voice of public opinion, finally, under the pressure of world public opinion; under the strong, regular, and planned pressure of our diplomacy provided by our officials and by our foreign minister at the United Nations; under the pressure of public opinion, Iraq was finally forced to accept a cease-fire without any of those preconditions. Our second aim was also attained. In other words, it accepted

the cease-fire and presented itself as a warmonger. It exposed its own nature and finally surrendered and submitted to what the Islamic Republic had said. [crowd chants in support]

Of course we must constantly keep in mind that the main element giving us strength in the political scene, in diplomatic negotiations, and in the international arena—what forced Iraq to make a political withdrawal and surrender to what we had originally declared—was the powerful presence of you people on the battlefronts. You secured this element. It was the massive flood of sincere volunteer forces on the battlefronts that did it. [passage omitted] Such a powerful presence on the front must remain as before. The sincere and faithful forces must continue to maintain their powerful military positions. This is the substance of our strength in all the political negotiations.

Another element placing the enemy under pressure and mobilizing public opinion was the clever and alert diplomacy of the Government of the Islamic Republic. Our Foreign Ministry followed the issues very well, exercising devotion and persistance. They went over there, they sat there to debate, to negotiate, to give interviews. They put their minds together—all the different establishments. They succeeded in arousing public opinion, and they brought pressure on Iraq, pressure the Iraqi regime, which is lacking any real popular support, could not tolerate. They brought such pressure on Iraq that Iraq was placed in the position the Islamic Republic wished. [passage omitted]

Now we leave behind 105 months of war. It is timely to return to take a new look at it.

Although the war lasted 8 years and involved many incidents—the many days during which we witnessed glorious victories, sacrifices, devotion of immaculate blood, efforts made, consultations and negotiations held, mobilizations arranged, strength shown on the scene and the bitterness encountered—the sum total of it all in these 8 years was a single event in our history.

Let us look back at the past 8 years to see what occurred and what has resulted since then. Doing this will teach us an important lesson. [passage omitted]

The world's economic, political, and military establishments united against this nation. Saddam—who, in our view, suffers from mental instability, mental disease, and is definitely of unsound mind—was set up by them to attack the Islamic Republic and violate our borders. When he later became trapped here, they began to defend him and to provide him with assistance to disentangle him from the trap. [passage omitted] If the world powers were not afraid to use nuclear power, they would have given him nuclear power too. However, they knew that if nuclear power were used, the world would end. Both Iran and the entire world would lose. [passage omitted]

When we look back, we see that for 8 years both East and West, reactionaries and others, communist governments and reactionary Arab governments, which are enemies of each other, and indeed opposing poles in the world of politics, put their heads together to inject the necessary vitamins into this sick and weak body [of Iraq]. So, they enabled it to attack Iran, to violate the borders. When they saw that his foot was trapped, they tried to rescue him. [passage omitted]

All right, everything was used to protect the Iraqi regime which attacked us: the world's military power—a frightening power—the power of both East and West, as well as propaganda power, economic power, and political power. They also used political power. I did not mention that whenever they felt that Iraq had lost its reputation in political matters—for instance, when it used chemical weapons and we informed the world and aroused world public opinion—they immediately began to repair its political position by organizing conferences with the help of several countries in a corner of the Arab world under different names. [passage omitted]

For 8 years, the world of arrogance and infidelity stood by Saddam and fought our nation. Now, if we were to examine what the declared objectives of this military move were, what the objectives were which they declared, then we would see that they had two objectives. This collective movement by the world against the Islamic Republic during this long drawn out war... [Khamene'i changes thought] They tell me that 105 months cannot be correct and that the war lasted 95 months. All right. We had better say 8 years minus 1 or 2 months. This is an easier way to say it. You better do the calculation yourselves.

The objectives which they declared were of two types: political and military. Their military objective was to capture Khuzestan through a military invasion. Khuzestan has two main characteristics: It is the center of the oil industry, which is the greatest source of our nation's wealth. It is also on the Persian Gulf. These are Khuzestan's important strategic characteristics. [passage omitted]

Their political objective, subject to their military objective, consisted of several elements. The most important was to weaken the Islamic Republic and then to destabilize it. If possible, they intended to overthrow it.

If the Islamic Republic had been overthrown, then the Islamic revolution would have in fact also been eliminated. This is because the existence of the Islamic revolution in the world depends on the Islamic Republic. Those in the world who love the Islamic Revolution in fact regard the Islamic Republic as the epitome and crystalization of this revolution.

The other political objective, allied with this first objective, was to fragment the country; that is, they wanted to create separate entities within Iran each run by a different group, assembly, tribe, or power. That was their declared political aim. This is not a matter of guesswork. At the beginning of the war, when Baghdad's rulers were still riding their steed of arrogance and haughtiness, when they were drunk on ignorance and would drunkenly say anything, when they could not hide anything even in their own hearts, they said all these things openly. They said them; they were written in the newspapers. The whole world is aware of it. It is not something we are just saying. They said themselves: We want to bring down the Islamic Republic.

They repeatedly said themselves that this revolution is a threat to such and such governments, and we want to destroy the revolution. They themselves drew up a map of Khuzestan as a dismembered entity, printed it, and even put it in their books. These are things or aims which they declared.

Well, with those aims—that is, with the hope of dismembering Iran, fragmenting Khuzestan, weakening the Islamic Republic, bringing down the Islamic Republic and installing a system inclined toward the West or the East, allied and prepared to take orders—with those aims they began all the struggles I have mentioned. They spent all that money. They poured all those weapons into Iraq. They wasted 8 years of the lives of their youths for this.

Now look! The world is also looking. What have global arrogance, Saddam's supporters, and the Iraqi regime itself gained after all that money has been spent and after those 8 years? What are the gains of the enemies of Islam after 8 years? Were they able to weaken the Islamic Republic? Were they able to bring down the revolutionary order? Were they able to dampen the light of the revolution in the world? Were they able to separate the nation from the leadership in our country? Were they able to weaken our military strength and our defensive strength? Were they able to do those things?

It is up to everyone in the world who is looking to judge, and they are making that judgment. There is no one who will not make the judgment which is clear to us today. The entire world admits that the Islamic Republis is a real military power today in this entire region. [Crowd chants in support]

The day the war began, we did not have real military power. Today our armed forces, our corps, and our huge popular forces have 8 years of war experience and are more prepared and strong than ever. We must not lose that preparedness, and we will not lose it. Today Iran is considered to be on the defensive. It is no longer the case that someone can harbor the naive idea of a military attack against us.

When a thief enters a house or when an animal invades a farm and finds himself trapped, receives a thorough beating, and finally escapes, then that becomes a lesson for other thieves. It becomes a lesson for others who may have had the same inclinations had it not been for that experience.

Some people say: Why did you not release that thief earlier? We had not yet taught it a lesson. The world had to realize that attacking the Islamic Republic will cost them dearly. The offenders and invaders had to understand that entering the battlefield against the Islamic Republic has many pitfalls. They had to understand that even 8 years of fighting, which lasted even longer than World War I and II, and all that expenditure will not bring Iran to its knees; it will make the revolutionary nation and the Islamic Republic even stronger. They had to understand that. The world understood that. It senses very well how strong the fist of the Iranian nation is. [crowd chants in support]

Iran is recognized today as an established military force in the world. Among the world's military establishments it is perhaps even the most superior of those prepared to defend their nations. Second, there is political power, in the sense that the world came to understand that the nation supports the Islamic Republic. For any system of government there is no power greater than its nation's solid support. The world is aware of this today. The insensitive wretches were spreading propaganda about people's having distanced themselves from the government, and that they have a low opinion of the leadership, and that they are pessimistic about the revolution.

However, the Islamic Republic enjoys strong popular support, as shown by the 8-year war, the brunt of which was borne by the people and the self-sacrificing mobilization forces. These forces were the most courageous combatants and ably demonstrated their resistance, steadfastness, and fighting ability. All this gave the Islamic Republic its military strength as well as its political power.

Who has this kind of political power? Which system and which government can say that it enjoys the backing and support of its people with such intensity and such warmth? You saw a prominent example of these qualities on 'Eid'd Ghadir this year, on the day of rallies to renew allegiance to the imam. There have been many examples of this kind of thing over the years. However, the presence of the people at the battlefront stands above all else.

The third characteristic that came to light was the nation's revolutionary capabilities. This nation demonstrated that its revolutionary capabilties are very high. [passage omitted] [crowd chants approval] Another important thing which has been gained by these 8 years of resistance and 8 years of war—and this not only applies to our nation but to all nations of the world—is

that nations now realize that it is possible to resist. They realize that revolutionary patience and resistance can rescue a nation when it comes across such difficulties.

If we had not resisted, they would have made us helpless. If we had not resisted, our country, our resources, our homes, and our honor would have been subjected to their aggressions and transgressions. If we had not resisted, the world would not have placed any value on our nation and our country. We resisted; the nation made sacrifices and showed its devotion. Its steadfastness made the world, the deprived people of the world, and the Third World realize that it is possible to resist at a time when both East and West are standing against us.

Second, they realized that resistance would end in their advantage, that a nation would emerge proudly from a long 8-year test.

The other point proven to the world was our revolution's innocence. We have shown our innocent face to the world over these 8 years. Dastardly individuals dealt whatever blows they could to our nation for 8 years: during the hajj, in the Persian Gulf, on the borders, in the air and on land, in economic deals, and trade. For 8 years they dealt whatever blows they could to our nation. [passage omitted]

Another of our achievements is that the world realized that it is possible to defend outselves without relying on foreign powers. Some countries do not know that and believe that a nation needs to depend on the East or West to defend itself. We showed that without any such dependence it is possible to defend the honor of a nation, and we did so. Therefore, you see that after 8 years of joint East-West effort, after 8 years of inciting an aggressive enemy against us, supporting him, giving him arms, money, propaganda, and political help—they did not stop at this and came to the Persian Gulf with their navies—our nation stood proud and powerful and forced them away from all of their goals. After 8 years, Iran maintains its national integrity; the Islamic Republic is powerful, and the leadership is stronger and shines more than ever. Ties between the people and the leadership are stronger. Popular determination to defend the revolution and move toward the revolution's goals is stronger than ever. [crowd chants]

The same ones who thought they could bring the matter to an end in a few days or a few weeks quickly returned to where they came from. Well, now they have to have celebrations. If they do not even do that, what can they do? They have to give some reply to their nation. If they do not say they are victorious, what can they say in response to the nation which asks: Why did you take us across the borders of a neighboring Muslim country? Just so you could bring us back 8 years later to where we started and after all that damage and all that shame? A reply must be given to them, after all, with gunshots and at prayer times with the firing of canons instead of calling the faithful to prayer. With stamping of feet in the streets and celebrations they must artificially reply to their nation.

No. Our nation with grace, with strength, with clear-sightedness, and with awareness does not need that kind of propaganda. It knows the truth of the matter itself, and it understands that it is the victor and the enemy the defeated one. The enemy wanted to bring it to its knees, but was not able to do so after all that effort and all that expenditure. After all 8 years of collective effort, the proud nation is still on its feet. Therefore, our nation understands its own victory very well.

I want to raise three brief points here. The discussion is becoming long. I apologize to the dear brothers and sisters who are sitting under the sun, especially to them, and also to you.

The first point is this: These victories, this show of force, this maintenance of a high level of great prestige in the world, this ability to stand proudly before God and before the people, do you know how these were attained? With the blessing of the blood of the martyrs. [passage omitted]

The second point is that defensive preparedness must increase daily. Do not think that since the war is over there is no point to defensive strength and preparedness. On the fronts and behind the fronts, in garrisons and in camps, in trenches, behind earth barriers, and on the borders, our armed forces and our volunteer forces must constantly maintain a strong presence. Our arms manufacturing units must show even more initiative and prepare and equip themselves. While it is rebuilding itself, our nation must continuously maintain a force for defending its gains.

The third point concerns the wretched and disgraced enemies and groups which did poorly in this matter. Of course, not all groups were the same. There were some which were content with looking at the Iranian nation from afar and without in any way participating in the Iranian nation's sorrow; they even scolded them. Some did more than this. At the height of war and the nation's defense of its borders and its revolution, they tried, with their treacherous leaflets and statements, to force the people, to provoke them, to encourage them to halt their defense and not to defend their own nation and revolution. They committed much treachery. These groups are worse than the first group.

Some of them even tried to put the Islamic Republic, which was at war and defending itself, under political examination on an international level. They, too, committed a great sin. However, the most disgraced, the lowest of them all, the most stupid, the most wretched were those Monafeqin [hypocrites; reference to Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] who did not content themselves with any of these things. Instead they were at the

side of the enemy who attacked this country and this revolution. Confronting the Iranian nation with the weapons of the Iranian nation's enemy, they killed Iranians and engaged in battle with them. [crowd chants: "Death to the Monafeqin."]

The insensitive hypocrites behaved in a cruel and stupid way. They have really behaved in a stupid, disgraceful, and wretched way. They began to believe the lies and slogans they themselves had concocted. They held on for a long time to the idea that people are turning away from the revolution and do not accept the Islamic Republic and that people are divided from the leadership. They were making up these lies knowing they were lies. They themselves were making up these lies. The stupid lot of them were deceived by their own lies. [passage omitted]

They kept lying. They spread rumors saying: Such and such a thing is happening in Iran; people are behaving in this and that way; they do not like the Hezbollah members; people are hostile toward the Islamic Republic and are turning away from it. These are the things which the hypocrites were making up and ended up stupidly believing. So, they formed their column, entered the country, and were routed.

Perhaps this was lucky for them. If they had remained alive, those who went to Hell would have doubtless been responsible for more corruption and rebellion. Of course, there are some indications that some of their agents collaborated with them inside the country. The hypocrites' agents—these disgraced wretches... [Khamene'i changes thought] Some intelligence and judiciary officials have evidence that there has been some contact even inside the prisons on some occasions with them. In any case, they were totally mistaken. They came and we inflicted blows on them.

Our nation, thank God, once again saw the mask removed in broad daylight exposing the face of the hypocrites. These are experiences from which we must learn and benefit. We must thank God Almighty for what has taken place and whatever will take place.

Larijani on Relations With U.S., USSR

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[Text] Tehran, Aug. 14, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for American and European Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani in a televised interview Saturday night threw light on Iran's stance on some of the most important international issues.

Larijani's interview covered Iran's acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598, the 1975-Algiers accord, Iraq's diplomacy, forthcoming U.N.-mediated talks between Iran and Iraq in Geneva and Tehran's ties with Western countries and the Soviet Union.

Asked about Iran's political motives for accepting the Security Council's Resolution 598, Larijani replied that contrary to the body's previous resolution on the war, Resolution 598 was not rejected by Iran since its issue.

Moreover, Larijani said, Iran cooperated with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in drafting a plan to implement the Resolution 598 which was later approved by the Security Council twice and formally accepted by the Islamic Republic.

The Baghdad regime's aggression, launched under the pretext of territorial disputes between the two countries, was later turned into a regional clash and then into an international issue which seriously threatened the whole region, Larijani said.

Under such circumstances, Larijani said, the Islamic Republic deemed it necessary to defuse tension at whatever price in order to safeguard the interests of both nations of Iran and Iraq and those of other regional countries.

Meanwhile, he said, the Islamic Republic realized that the big powers were trying to foment tension in the region in a bid to safeguard their own interests.

Larijani, questioned what would happen if Iran did not accept U.N. Resolution 598 on July 18, answered that tension in the region would heighten and the Islamic Republic could not attain its goals.

The deputy foreign minister said that Iran's diplomacy towards Security Council Resolution 598 has attained noticeable achievements, for instance, the frustration of the U.S. and some other countries in their attempts to impose arms embargo on the Islamic Republic.

Such a successful Iranian diplomacy also foiled Baghdad's subversive efforts to obstruct the implementation of U.N. Resolution 598 even after Iran's acceptance of it, he said.

Further on the same subject, Larijani said the Ba'thist regime ruling in Iraq launched its aggression on Iran with the idea of gaining concessions from the Islamic Republic but gained nothing except for hundreds of thousands of casualties, billions of dollars in damage and billions of dollars in foreign debts during the nearly 8-year-old war. The Baghdad regime is now one of the most indebted governments in the world, he said.

Therefore, Larijani said, Iraq is now far less likely to gain anything than it was anytime since the outbreak of the war.

The Baghdad regime is best advised to learn a lesson from its past experience, and it should remember that Iran is an important and powerful country in the region on which the world counts, he said.

The deputy foreign minister also advised the Baghdad regime to quit its aggressive policy and recognize Iran's legitimate rights rather than make such tall and insolent demands.

Asked if Baghdad had dropped its preconditions for accepting U.N. Resolution 598 under pressure from the Riyadh regime, Larijani said tension in the region is dangerous to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other regional countries.

Therefore, he said, it is natural to assume that Riyadh would benefit from the implementation of U.N. Resolution 598 because the resolution's 8th article makes the U.N. chief dutybound to work towards a collective plan for security and stability of the region in cooperation with all regional countries.

Larijani said that Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and other Persian Gulf littoral states should play their parts in the enforcement of the resolution.

Of course, he noted, Saudi Arabia used to blindly support the Iraqi regime, a move which only heightened the tension. He said that in his opinion the most important goal of the Riyadh regime now is to defuse regional tension.

The deputy foreign minister, questioned to what extent the Islamic Republic would insist on reviving the 1975 Algiers Accord principles, replied that the accord is still valid and there is no need for the Islamic Republic to renew it.

He made it clear that the accord cannot be ruled null and void unilaterally although it might have been torn up in front of T.V. cameras—a reference to Saddam Husayn's tearing up of the Algiers Accord on a T.V. brodadcast just a few days before Baghdad launched its aggression on Iran on September 22, 1980.

Elsewhere in his 90-minute interview, Larijani said that a protocol on dredging the Arvand River is attached to the 1975 Algiers Accord on the basis of which a joint Iran-Iraq committee is responsible for monitoring the dredging operations.

Dredging the Arvand River is in the intest of both countries, stressed the deputy foreign minister.

Larijani said that Iran will certainly restore and reconstruct the destroyed southern port city of Khorramshahr which he described as "the once beautiful international port of fame." The port will be dredged and re-exploited as stipulated the protocol, he noted.

In response to a question as to what was the Islamic Republic's opinion on the venue of Tehran-Baghdad peace talks with regards to the fact that several Muslim countries have expressed willingness to host the talks, Larijani answered:

"The Islamic Republic has accepted the U.N. chief's proposal that the talks be held in Geneva and therefore the negotiations expected to start on August 25 will be entirely held there."

On the resumption of Iran's diplomatic ties with some Western countries, Larijani said the renewal of relations with Paris and Ottawa and with London to some degree date back before the Islamic Republic's acceptance of Resolution 598. Therefore, he said, the acceptance of the resolution by Iran has no important role in this issue.

Commenting on Irano-Soviet ties, Larijani said that during his recent visit to Moscow, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, on behalf of that country's leadership, had assured him that mutual relations will substantially expand after the war.

Larijani, asked about obstacles in the way of promotion of Tehran-Moscow ties, replied that USSR's full support for the Baghdad regime in the course of the Iraqi-imposed war badly damaged its interests in Iran.

If the Soviet Union had adopted an impartial or at least a moderate stance on the Iraqi-imposed war, Tehran-Moscow ties would have considerably expanded.

Larijani, asked whether the Islamic Republic has changed its policy in Afghanistan, answered "Certainly not, and the whole world knows this."

The Islamic Republic considers Afghan mujahidin fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul regime as the only representatives of Afghan Muslims and regards their jihad (holy struggle) as a freedom campaign aimed at liberating their homeland, he said.

The Iranian official made it clear that no governments in Kabul have the least chance to survive without the support of Afghan people and mujahidin.

Iran's diplomatic ties with both Eastern and Western countries are based on fixed principles, namely mutual respect and mutual interests, he said.

The Islamic Republic's relations with other countries in the world have substantially expanded since the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979 so much so that the number of Iranian Embassies abroad has increased by 40 percent, Larijani pointed.

In response to a question as to what policy Iran would adopt vis-a-vis the U.S., in view of Washington's long record of intervention, Larijani replied that U.S. policy towards Iran has been hostile and its meddlesome record in the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic since the triumph of the revolution in 1979 is a clear pointer.

He noted that as long as the U.S. maintains such a hostile policy towards Islamic Iran any talks with American officials on resumption of mutual relations are meaningless.

The deputy foreign minister for American and European affairs reiterated that no Iranian official or politician has ever held talks with even a single American diplomat.

If the U.S. was serious in resuming ties with the Islamic Republic its words should have been coupled with deeds whereas Washington's hostile actions against Iran including its military expedition and downing of an Iran Air passenger plane in the Persian Gulf proves the contrary.

He said that if Washington desires to hold talks with Tehran on the renewal of bilateral relations, "It must first quit its open hostility towards the Islamic revolution."

Questioned on Iran's conditions for resuming ties with the U.S. in view of the latter's desire for rapprochement, Larijani answered that the Islamic Republic has no confidence in American officials' statements on resumption of Tehran- Washington ties.

Such expressions of willingness by U.S. officials should be followed by practical steps, the deputy foreign minister stressed.

He also quoted Majlis (Parliament) Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani as calling on the U.S. to take logical stance on the Iraqi-imposed war, stand clear of Baghdad's aggression on Iran, stop its military actions and lift its trade embargo in order to pave the way for rapprochement.

On Tehran-London relations, Larijani said the Islamic Republic's ties with Britain have improved and talks are underway to further improve the relations.

Larijani said that those countries which remained friendly with Tehran and even helped it in the course of the Iraqi-imposed war would naturally be given priority during the post-war reconstruction era.

He said that the Islamic Republic will have no difficulties in its reconstruction projects because many industrialized and economic powers have remained with Iran during the imposed war.

On the exchange of Iraqi and Iranian POWs, he said the Islamic Republic has approved of a preliminary proposal made by the U.N. secretary-general at the U.N. headquarters in New York on the exchange of POWs within three months after ceasefire goes into effect on August 20.

Larijani, responding to a question about the future of Afghan refugees residing in Iran after Afghanistan undergoes a political transformation, said that Iran welcomes to continue its hosting of the refugees.

Moreover, Larijani said, the Islamic Republic, according to its Islamic principles cannot force Afghan refuges to return to their country, but "of course Afghanistan is their homeland and they are free to return there as stipulated by the Geneva talks on Afghanistan," he concluded.

Separate Cease-Fire Headquarters Planned

LD1308212788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] According to IRNA, the two delegations dispatched by the United Nations in preparation for the preliminaries for establishing a cease-fire in the Iraq-Iran war have decided to have two separate headquarters in Tehran and Baghdad instead of a single command position. The decision was announced on Friday.

Iran and Iraq are due to begin direct talks in Geneva on 25 August. UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said that it is expected that the first session will last about a week.

Velayati Sees Off Australia's Bill Hayden

LD1308094388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] According to an IRNA report, Mr Bill Hayden, the Australian minister of foreign affairs and commerce, who led a delegation visiting Tehran, departed last night. He was seen off by Foreign Minister Velayati.

During their 3-day visit to Tehran, the Australian minister of foreign affairs and his accompanying delegation met with Iran's president, prime minister, foreign and agriculture ministers, and acting minister of foreign trade.

Velayati Departs 13 Aug for Syria, Libya

LD1308100788 Tehran IRNA in English 0955 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 13, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a delegation left here for Damascus and Tripoli today.

Regional developments, topics in relations with the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and mutual ties are to be discussed by the Iranian delegation and ranking officials of the host countries.

Meets Officials

LD1408163888 Tehran IRNA in English 1619 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Damascus, Aug. 14, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Sunday laid emphasis on expansion and strengthening of Tehran-Damascus ties in his meetings with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Upon his departure for Tripoli, Velayati said views were exchanged in his meeting with President al-Asad on Palestinian, Lebanese and Persian Gulf issues as well as Iran-Syria close cooperation in regional and international scenes.

During his one-day stay in Syria, Velayati also conferred with Lebanon's Hizbollah Council, Vice-Chairman of Supreme Shi'ite Assembly Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, and Amal leader Nabih Birri in Iran's Embassy in Damascus.

Commentary Views Coordination

LD1408134088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1050 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Unattributed political commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dr Velayati's visit to Damascus is the topic of our political commentary today.

Yesterday Dr Velayati met Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus. Earlier he had held talks with Faruq al-Shar', his Syrian counterpart.

The visit of our country's foreign minister to Syria and then to Libya takes place under conditions in which the Middle East is witnessing extremely profound and fundamental developments. Iran, Syria, and Libya are trying to become more coordinated regarding the consequences of these developments and the future of the region.

One important development is the cease-fire declaration in the 8-year Iran-Iraq war. The two governments of Syria and Libya have constantly supported the stances of the Islamic republic of Iran in their encounter with the aggressor and the repelling of aggression. Now that the hardship of the imposed war is about to end, the progressive governments must continue, as usual, to be on guard as to the Iraqi regime's objectives and efforts in line with the reactionary Arab governments to obstruct progressive aims.

During the course of the imposed war, the Iraqi regime's ability to achieve its ends was increasingly weakened. However, it must not be forgotten that that regime's political objectives for the region have remained unchanged.

Now, in relation to the sacred issue of Palestine, everybody is a witness to the fact that Yasir 'Arafat, the leader of the compromising Palestinian wing, is trying, through holding repeated sessions in Baghdad, to strengthen further compromising solutions with the help of Iraq, Egypt, and Jordan.

On the other hand, in Lebanon—this war-torn and weakened country—the Iraqi regime is trying, on the threshold of the presidential elections, to prevent the solution of the Lebanese crisis through coordination with the Christian right wing, especially the Lebanese forces. In line with the United States and Israel, the Iraqi regime is trying to impose the anti-Syrian candidate on Lebanon. Thus, the Iraqi regime is trying to fan the flames of the internal differences of Lebanon more than ever before, further increasing that country's deep crisis.

Under these conditions and in the light of these developments, the visit of Dr Velayati, our country's foreign minister, to Syria and Libya enjoys a special importance.

The Syrian Government is the only neighbor of the Zionist regime which opposes any kind of compromising project. Iran pays attention to the principles of the Islamic revolution. Keeping in mind the popular and economic strength which will be released at the war's end, Iran and Syria, through their ability to have a higher regional profile, will be able to neutralize the designs of the imperialists and reactionaries for the area's future.

Omani Minister of State Continues Visit

Speaks With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD1308183788 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 13, IRNA—Iran's move to accept U.N. Resolution 598 has instantly transformed problems plaguing the region into political advantages, Omanese Foreign Minister [title as received] Yusuf ibn al-Alawi told Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Saturday.

Those who view Iran-Oman ties as in harmony when compared to those of other regional states, should first study history, said Al-Alawi, adding, "It is true we may be Arabs but the fact is we are bound together by Islam, and Arab nationalism without Islam is like a body without soul."

Al-Alawi said that high-ranking Omanese officials believe that security will not return to the region unless there is coordination among all Persian Gulf littoral states.

In response, Hashemi-Rafsanjani lauded the Omanese Government for its just stands on the Iraqi-imposed war, unlike certain other Persian Gulf littoral states which under the influence of Arab nationalism adopted unjust stands on the conflict.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that if the Muslim world which he described as a large family, had paid more attention to Islamic affairs the Muslim ummah would have held the upper hand in its confrontation with both the East and West.

The acting Armed Forces commander-in-chief regretted that the enemies of Islam by exploiting economic and territorial disputes among Muslim states are constantly sowing discord among the tremendous community of one billion Muslims.

The Iraqi-imposed war would have ended much sooner if Muslim states had pressured the Baghdad regime to state its reasons for imposing the war on the Islamic Republic, he said.

Even after Iran's acceptance Baghdad tried to obstruct enforcement of U.N. Resolution 598 by raising the absurd question of direct talks but was later forced to drop its demands for face-to-face talks when faced with serious reaction by Arab states, the speaker concluded.

Meets Montazeri

LD1408091788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The Omani foreign minister, accompanied by members of his delegation and deputies of our country's Foreign Ministry, met Grand Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday following a pilgrimage to the immaculate shrine of Her Holiness Fatimah al-Ma'sumah, peace be on her.

According to the Central News Unit, during this meeting Grand Ayatollah Montazeri referred to the dangers of Eastern and Western colonialism and said that it is necessary for Muslims to be aware and attentive to their Islamic personality. He then said: East and West have fixed their coveteous eyes on the Islamic countries and their resources. If the Muslims, commanding so much spiritual and material resources, return to their true and Islamic personality and if they take their fate into their own hands, then residents of the White House and the Kremlin will not be able to interfere in the affairs of Muslims and in their social and political fate.

However, today we see with regret the current predicament of the Islamic countries and so many divisions, differences, and ideological strains, and how because of all this Zionism and the enemies of Islam, are dominating the heart of the Islamic countries and plotting to exterminate the Palestinian Muslims. In order not to make Israel a target—unfortunately because of the ignorance as well as the propaganda of the enemies—the danger of Israel has been forgotten and instead the enemies try to portray the Islamic revolution as a danger. Yet, if around 1 billion Muslims were to be united and perform their Islamic and Koranic duties against infidelity and polytheism they could submerge Israel. And then today there would be no mention of Israel. [passage omitted]

According to the same report, yesterday the logistics commander and the director of the ideopolitical office and his deputies, and the commanders of the transport and munitions support of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran met Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. They talked about relevant issues.

Departs 13 Aug

LD1408062488 Tehran IRNA in English 0615 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, August 14, IRNA—Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Oman Yusuf ibn al-Alawi 'Abdallah left Tehran for Oman at the end of a week-long visit to Tehran Saturday night. He was seen off at Tehran airport by Iranian deputy foreign minister in charge of foreign affairs 'Ali Mohammad Besharati and a group of other officials.

During his stay here the Omanese foreign minister [title as received] reviewed Persian Gulf developments in separate meetings with Ayatollah Montazeri, Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and other government officials.

Khamene'i Visits Troops on Southern Front

LD1408112988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] On the 1st day of the month of Muharram, the month of uprising and martyrdom, President Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, this morning visited an Islamic army military position on the southern front and addressed thousands of selfless and warrior mobilization forces and guards corps. Describing the impact of the month of Muharram on the course of history, he said: Muharram is an eloquent example of battle between Islam and blasphemy. This battle will not conclude until the end of time. The president later noted the need for the combatants of Islam to maintain their military perparedness and morale. He said: The acceptance of Resolution 598 took place in line with the interests of Islam. We stress that in the implementation of the provisions of that resolution we will not accept a single word which is forced on us. The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: If negotiations start we shall sit powerfully at the negotiating table with the backing of the combatant nation and demand that the provisions of the resolution be implemented in full.

Mr Khamene'i stressed: In light of the Iraqi regime's obstructionist attitude throughout the course of negotiations, our combatants must maintain their state of readiness.

At this gathering, one of the local commanders made a speech addressed to the combative and resistant nation and pointed out that until our country's officials are fully confident that the enemy has ceased its aggression, we shall not remove our combat uniforms and will support the decisions made by those in charge.

Urges Maintained Vigilance

LD1408085588 Tehran IRNA in English 0836 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Southern operational theater, Aug 14, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i Saturday called on the Muslim combatants of Iran to maintain their vigilance and readiness throughout future developments in the region. He added the Iranian nation is faced with an enemy that defies international regulations and Islamic, and humanistic principles, and noted that the Iraqi Government relents only when overpowered.

The president who was inspecting heavy battery and anti- aircraft units in the frontlines of a southern operational area reminded that notwithstanding an expected end to the war Muslim combatants should remain alert throughout future developments.

Further on Speech

LD1508084288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Mr Sayyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, who has gone to the war fronts, spoke to a gathering of thousands of selfless volunteers and guards corpsmen, stationed in one of the divisions of the Army of Islam in the southern operational axis. He described the reasons for the Islamic Republic of Iran's accepting Resolution 598 and stressed: Direct negotiations will not be conducted at high or top levels and will be conducted at a specific level [as heard]. With regard to borders, too, the 1975 Algiers agreement will form the basis [of the negotiations]. Also, in addition to the fact that a committee must be formed to identify the aggressor, the legal effects of the matter, including the payment of reparations, must also be given attention.

The Supreme Defense Council chairman stressed: The exchange of POWs must also take place in accordance with regulations, and with respect to withdrawal, too, the two countries' forces must return to international borders.

The president then referred to the fact that throughout the peace negotiations and subsequently, the aggressor enemy must not be trusted or counted on and said: After Iran's announcement to accept the resolution, the enemy wished to prolong the issue for several months and some world powers encouraged it in that connection. However, as a result of the definite direction of our diplomacy and pressure from public opinion on the Iraqi regime, the enemy was forced to stop its obstructionism and accepted the resolution.

Continuing, Mr Khamene'i referred to the fact that the Islamic Republic is capable of creating a tremendous focal point in the world called Islam and described self-sacrifice and selflessness for the sake of religion as a guarantor of the survival of religion and the expression of justice. He praised the brave general of the Corps of Islam, martyr Zeyn ol-Din for his services.

The president also described the fulfillment of the aims and ideals of a religion as a requirement of the establishment of any society and government based on that religion. He referred to the fact that the Islamic system, in order to continue its existence, must recognize the enemy and make plans for confronting it and said: Islam stresses, even when there is no war, the need to quantitatively and qualitatively develop your human and material forces and engage in construction as much as possible.

The president added: If your youths become afflicted with political, mental, or physical corruption or with indolence, everything will be lost. It is, therefore, necessary for the forces of Islam to maintain their vigilance and preparedness.

At the end of the meeting and on the night of the 2d of Muharram [month beginning 14 August] ceremonies were held eulogizing the hardship endured by the lord of the martyrs, Husayn ibn-e 'Ali, may God's peace be upon him.

The Central News Unit's correspondent, the southern operational region

Shelling of Iraqi Towns Denied

LD1308084388 Tehran IRNA in English 0832 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 13, IRNA—An informed source at the General Command of the Iranian Armed Forces today denied Iraqi claims that Iranian forces had shelled Iraqi positions Friday night.

He described Iraqi allegation as 'mere false' aimed at masking the aggressive nature of the Iraqi regime. He added the Iraqi Government has been looking for excuses especially after the announcement by the U.N. secretary general of the start-date of a cease-fire and his request that both parties exercise utmost self-restraint.

Claims 'Pure Fabrications'

LD1308151488 Tehran IRNA in English 1507 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Bushehr, Aug. 13, IRNA—Defence Minister Colonel Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali today categorically refuted the Baghdad regime's recent claims that Iranian forces shelled Iraqi cities and described them as "pure fabrications."

Colonel Jalali said that it was the Iraqi regime that chemically attacked defenceless Iranian people despite Iran's acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598 which seeks to end the conflict and to this end Iran has lodged a complaint with the U.N.

Speaking to IRNA at the Bushehr airport, the defence minister warned that if the Iraqi Ba'thist regime hampers the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598, Iranian forces will severely counter its moves.

Jalali cited the long steps taken by Iranian military industries towards attaining self-sufficiency as one of the achievements of the war for Iran.

Defense Minister Speaks on Army Readiness

LD1408175188 Tehran IRNA In English 1719 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Bushehr, Aug. 14, IRNA—The Islamic Republic's Armed Forces should maintain their complete readiness on the battlefields in terms of manpower and equipment, said Defence Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali here today.

He reminded that just when Iran accepted U.N. Resolution 598, the Ba'thist enemy by ganging up with the anti-revolutionary Munafiqeen (Hypocrites) Khalq Organisation (MKO) launched a fresh invasion against the country's soil.

The MKO terrorists coldbloodedly slew Iran's defenceless Muslim people and burnt down their houses while they hypocritically style themselves as 'people's supporters', he added.

However their plots were aborted thanks to the Islamic revolution which has taught Iran's Muslims to prefer honourable martyrdom to a disgraceful life, said Jalali who is in this southern port city to decorate naval personnel for their valour in the course of the Iraqi-imposed war.

He also stressed the necessity of maintaining a powerful standing army to counter any possible enemy mischiefs.

In a ceremony at the naval base, Jalali decorated Navy Commander Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan with medals for his valour, tact and command of the naval units. A number other naval commanders also received badges of courage.

Rafiqdust Discusses Army Duties in Peacetime

LD1308111588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] The first term of the advanced course on logistics management of the IRGC began amid ceremonies this morning. IRGC minister Mr Mohsen Rafiqdust and a number of IRGC authorities as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces were present at the ceremonies.

During the ceremonies, a report was submitted on logistics training activites. The IRGC minister said in his remarks: There is no difference between wartime and peacetime as far as military forces are concerned. Indeed, during peace one must utilize all the available resources for bringing about the necessary state of preparedness. Therefore, we put all the experiences we have gained through the war period toward modern know-how. In this way, we intend to arrive at the necessary elevated growth through the experience and knowledge we have gained.

The IRGC minister said in conclusion: Any country failing to stand on its own feet to defend itself cannot claim political and economic independence. This is a kind of dependence.

IRGC's Mohsen Reza'i Cautions War Not Over

LD1208163788 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Tabriz, Azarbayjan-Khavari Prov., Aug 12, IRNA—A senior Iranian military commander yesterday warned that it would be catastrophic for the Islamic Republic if people and combatants should assume that a ceasefire means a crucial end to the war.

Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards (IRGC) Mohsen Reza'i told reporters here that it is only the people's alertness and their presence in the scene which will guarantee a lasting peace.

Had Iranian Muslim forces not repelled recent enemy attacks on some western and southern parts of the country such as Bakhtaran and Khorramshahr Baghdad would not have dropped its preecondition for accepting a U.N. mediated ceasefire in the conflict, he said.

Reza'i cautioned that the enemies of the Islamic revolution will not quit their plots unless the Iranian people prove they are mighty.

Because the Baghdad regime is likely to commit any act before U.N. Resolution 598 is implemented, Muslim forces of Iran will remain on full alert, he said.

On the achievements of "Mersad" operations launched by Iranian forces in western Iran late July, the IRGC commander said that a large number of members of the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq organization (MKO) including several commanders were killed in the operations.

Volunteer, Mobilization Forces Leave for Fronts

LD1508014988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] A large group of volunteer popular forces under the name Pioneers of the Muharram Corps were dispatched to the fronts from Qazvin this afternoon. Also, mobilization forces from Qazvin, Takestan, Abyek, Rudbar-e Alamut, Bui'n-Zahra, (Avak), and (Tarem-e Sofla) who had gathered in front of the IRGC headquarters in Qazvin were dispatched to the fronts in a special ceremony and people's farewell. In this ceremony the

dispatched forces commemorated the month of Muharram, the month of Husayn's martyrdom [Husayn Ibn 'Ali Ibn Abitalib], by beating their chests and reciting mourning chants.

Forces Depart Tabriz, Takab

LD1308172488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Popular volunteer forces continue to leave for the war zones to guard the borders of our Islamic homeland. Today large groups of fresh mobilization forces left Tabriz and Takab for the country's western and southern borders.

UN Team Inspects Areas Hit by Chemical Weapons

LD1208174588 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, Azarbayjan Bakhtari Prov., Aug. 12, IRNA—A United Nations fact-finding team currently in Iran to inspect areas attacked by Iraqi chemical bombs, arrived in Oshnaviyeh in this northwestern province today.

The team visited residential areas, took photographs and samples of contaminated soil and drafted a report. Later on the Iranian Health Minister Dr. 'Ali Reza Marandi accompanied the UN envoys in their visit to victims of the latest Iraqi chemical attacks in various hospitals here.

Iraqi warplanes dropped chemical bombs on eight residential areas in Oshnaviyeh in the early hours of august 2, injuring a large number of local civilians.

Military Personnel Praised for War Efforts

Khomeyni Writes Air Base

LD1308173288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] As a sign of praise for the bravery of the pilots and personnel of Shahid Baba'i base in Esfahan during the imposed war, a plaque made from a written message by Imam Khomeyni, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, was given to the base commander today.

The Central News Unit reports that during the ceremonies a clergyman made a speech saying: The sacrifice of the people and Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly the high-flying pilots of our Armed Forces, foiled all the calculations of world politicians. It was this that prompted the commander in chief to praise you with his auspicious message reflected in this plaque.

At the ceremonies the commander noted the honor bestowed on him and said as he received the plaque showing the praise written by the imam of the ummah: In the imposed war, the Air Force has defended the holy sanctity of Islam and Iran. I declare today that to the last man we are prepared for any sacrifice until all the holy objectives of Islam and the great leadership are achieved.

Naval Personnel Praised

LD1408122788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] In the joint morning ceremonies held today, attended by Brigadier Jalali, minister of defense; Commodore Malekzadegan, commander in the navy; the governor-general, the commanders and personnel of military and security forces and the authorities of Bushehr, gratitude was expressed for the bravery and courage of the commanders and personnel of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy in maintaining the integrity of our country's sea borders during 8 eights [not further specified] of holy defense.

According to the Central News Unit, during the ceremonies, memorial plaques were presented to the naval commander and to the commander and personnel of the battleship "Joshan" which was engaged with the aggressor warship of criminal America in the Persian Gulf.

Briefs

Narcotics Seized

Mashhad, Aug, 14, IRNA—About 45 kilograms of opium and 185 grams of heroin were seized from drug traffickers by the narcotics squad of the Islamic revolution committees in Torbat-e Jam, Sarakhs, and Mashhad, Khorasan Province on Saturday. A number of traffickers were arrested and imprisoned on trafficking charges. [Text] [*LD1508011188 Tehran IRNA in English 0612 GMT 14 Aug 88*]

Pakistan

Ziaul Haq Delivers Independence Day Message

BK1408053088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Excerpt] The nation is celebrating its 42d Independence Day today with the renewed pledge to work harder for the strength, solidarity, and prosperity of the country and make it a truly Islamic state.

In a message to the nation on the occasion, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that the spirit of the Pakistan Movement should remain supreme over all ethnic and regional affiliations. He said that Islam was the basis of our unity during the Pakistan Movement. Therefore, we should unite now that Islam has been implemented and work for the country's reconstruction. He reminded the nation that 14 August marks the culmination of the great leader, Mohammad Ali Jinnah's tireless struggle to rescue the Muslims in South Asia from serfdom.

The president said the great leader faced opposition from all sides. However, he overcame all hardships with his determination and perseverance, and with the cooperation and unity of the Muslims of the entire subcontinent. The secret of this historic success lay in the fact that while on the one hand there was a hero like Mohammad Ali Jinnah, on the other, there was the unity of the nation and its identification with Islam, which made this miracle possible.

The president noted that 14 August this year falls on the beginning of the first Islamic month. He said that this is the month of holy Muharram when Imam Husayn [the prophet's grandson] dedicated his life and set up a great example of sacrifice in the history of Islam. The president stressed the need for mutual tolerance and brotherhood and said that our foundation lies in Islam which teaches us to foster brotherliness and amity among Muslims. The president said that this is same spirit of democracy which he has been fostering so that it fully conforms with the Islamic principle of consultations [in government] and which gives us freedom to elect people of commendable character.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq congratulated the nation on this auspicious day of salvation and independence and called on the people to make a pledge to remain united and to maintain the spirit of the Pakistan Movement. We will adopt the golden principles of unity, faith, and discipline of our great leader in our practical life. He said that if we succeed in creating within us at least a portion of the same spirit, as was seen during the struggle for freedom for the sake of our country's strength and prosperity, then Pakistan will emerge as an invincible power. [passage omitted]

More on Independence Day Speech

BK1408072888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Excerpt] The national flag-raising ceremony was held in front of the Presidency in connection with the Independence Day celebrations in Islamabad this morning. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq raised the flag and recited the national anthem with others attending the ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, the president announced that the Islamic judicial system will be enforced in the country within the next few weeks or months but before 16 November this year when general elections will be held. He said that the people should have speedy and inexpensive justice, which will greatly change their life-style.

General Mohammad Ziaul Haq paid his greatest tribute to the leaders, freedom fighters, warriors, and martyrs of the Pakistan Movement who made great sacrifices for the achievement of independence. He said that it was the spirit of Islamic brotherhood that made the establishment of Pakistan a reality, the impossible became possible. The president reiterated the pledge that Pakistan will be made a fortress of Islam in the real sense when Islam enjoys supremacy in all fields. The president reminded the people that our existence and independence depend on unity and unanimity, not on hatred and discord. He urged the people to commit themselves to work as one, setting aside their petty differences, and not think in terms of ethnic, linguistic, and sectarian differences.

The president thanked the people attending the ceremony who came there despite heavy rains in the federal capital. The open-air function continued without any disruption and in a disciplined manner. The president met people from various walks of life after raising the flag and shook hands with them. [passage omitted]

Ziaul Haq Greets Indian Independence Day

BK1508042488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has greeted President Venkataraman on the occasion of India's independence day today. He expressed his sincere wishes for the Indian people's progress and prosperity.

Curfew Imposed in Quetta; Army Called In

BK1308102788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] A curfew has been clamped on the city of Quetta, excluding areas under the jurisdiction of Faizabad, Civil Lines, and Cantonment police stations, from 0930 this morning until further notice. A press note issued by the Quetta district magistrate says that due to rivalry and enmity between two transport companies, two buses of a company were attacked at Mangochar and Satkucha in Qallat Division in during the night of Thursday-Friday. One driver was killed and three others were injured.

This morning, some mischievous elements attempted to disrupt traffic by blocking vehicles at various places in Quetta. There have been sporadic incidents of firing, stonethrowing, setting fire to vehicles, and damaging property. In view of this situation and in order to protect the life and property of the people, the Army has been called in and all citizens have been asked to remain indoors. The law and order situation is fully under control.

172 People Arrested

BK1408132088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1234 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Aug 14 (AFP)—At least 172 people have been arrested and troops in battle gear are patrolling streets after ethnic riots left more than a dozen people wounded here, witnesses and press reports said Sunday.

Hundreds of armed soldiers were seen Sunday patrolling Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan Province, in armoured vehicles and gun-mounted trucks. Troops at several points set up pickets and blocked entry and exit with barbed wire, witnesses said.

Authorities said they had permitted a three-hour relaxation and then reimposed at midday Sunday a curfew clamped on the city Saturday. No incidents were reported during the break, officials said.

Troops entered this southwestern Pakistani city bordering Afghanistan on Saturday after clashes between ethnic Baluchis and Pathans left more than a dozen people wounded by gunfire Saturday, witnesses and hospital sources said.

The main opposition leader, Benazir Bhutto, issued a statement accusing the government of failure to protect the life and property of its citizens.

Troops were seen at an Army post established at the main bus terminal, which was the scene of Saturday's armed clashes between rival transportation companies from Baluchi and Pathan communities.

Witnesses said they saw troops set up machineguns at a bus stand where 30 minutes of gunfire left 10 people injured Saturday. Violence erupted in the city soon after the arrival of the body of a Pathan driver killed Thursday in a Baluchi area in the city's outskirts, witnesses said. Pathans blamed the Baluchis for the murder and started forcing shopkeepers to close their businesses. Angry mobs then began pelting shops and vehicles.

Tension between the two groups has simmered for some time mainly because of economic issues, residents say. The Baluchis are native to Baluchistan while the Pathans are settlers from the north. Armed youngsters went on a rampage of looting and arson in several parts of the city and police repeatedly lobbed tear gas grenades and charged the crowd with bamboo sticks, but failed to quell the rioting, witnesses said.

Three policemen were injured, forcing authorities to call out troops. A curfew was clamped Saturday and a local radio station began broadcasting an official announcement advising people to stay indoors.

Newspapers Sunday said at least a dozen buses, seven private cars and several motorcycles were destroyed. Dozens of shops were also set on fire and some hotels and restaurants were ransacked, the reports added.

All educational institutions including Quetta University have been ordered closed and functions scheduled to celebrate Pakistan's 42d independence day Sunday were cancelled.

Newspapers said 172 people were arrested on charges of rioting and committing violence Saturday and the houses of suspects were raided overnight in an attempt to crack down on rioters. Police confirmed that arrests had been made but gave no figures.

Ms. Bhutto said in her statement that the ethnic violence in Quetta and similar clashes in Hyderabad in southern Sind Province were indicators of the government's desire "to pit brother against brother in order to perpetuate one-man rule in Pakistan." Ms. Bhutto, a strong opponent of Pakistan President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, appealed to the warring factions to "see through the administration's game and abort efforts to use these incidents as a pretext to postpone elections" due in November.

Situation 'Totally Peaceful'

BK1408153788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] A high-level meeting was held in Quetta this evening. It was presided over by the acting chief minister of Baluchistan, Mr Zafarullah Khan Jamali. He appealed to the general public to cooperate with the government in getting rid of miscreant elements from the society. He said the miscreants will be dealt with according to the law without any discrimination. The chief minister also announced a grant of 100,000 rupees for the wife of the driver killed in Mangochar.

According to a press note issued by the district magistrate of Quetta, the situation in Quetta was totally peaceful and no untoward incident has been reported from any part of the country during the curfew relaxation period. The curfew restrictions were relaxed two times today. Yesterday, the curfew was relaxed from 0700 to 1800.

Yaqub Khan Returns From SAARC Meeting

BK1408024488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said the fact that Pakistan expressed its readiness to hold the next summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC, on short notice reflects its deep interest in the development of the organization. He was talking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport on his return from Kathmandu after attending the SAARC ministerial conference. He said that the summit will be held during the last half of December, but the final date will be determined after consultations among the members. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that the 2-day conference discussed the regional situation and reviewed at length on how member countries might cooperate to achieve SAARC objectives.